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London Bird Report 2004



A London Natural History Society Publication

No. 69

London Natural History Society

The Society publishes ornithological and other natural history records for the area within 20 miles of St Paul's Cathedral. As well as Ornithology there are sections of the Society covering Arachnology, Archaeology, Botany, Conchology, Conservation, Ecology, Entomology, Geology, Herpetology, Mammalogy, Palaeontology and Rambling. The sections' meetings are open to all members without formality.

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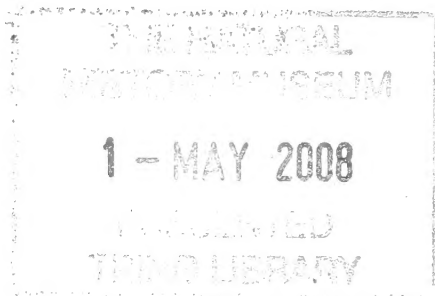
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London Bird Report for 2004

edited by Andrew Self

Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Introduction—Andrew Self | 3 |
| Records Committee and Editors | 5 |
| Recording Arrangements | 6 |
| Map of the Area and Gazetteer of Sites | 7 |
| Review of the Year 2004—Andrew Self | 15 |
| Contributors to the Systematic List | 18 |
| Birds of the London Area 2004 | 23 |
| Swans to Shelduck—David Callahan | |
| Dabbling Ducks—Rob Innes | |
| Diving Ducks—Garry James | |
| Gamebirds—Andrew Moon | |
| Divers to Shag—Ian Woodward | |
| Herons—Andrew Moon | |
| Raptors—Roy Woodward | |
| Rails—Andrew Moon | |
| Waders—Rob Innes | |
| Skuas to Gulls—Des McKenzie | |
| Terns to Cuckoo—Steve Marshall | |
| Owls to Woodpeckers—Andrew Gardner | |
| Larks to Waxwing—Peter Newmark | |
| Wren to Thrushes—Roy Beddard | |
| Warblers—Andrew Self | |
| Crests to Treecreeper—Peter Lambert | |
| Penduline Tit to Sparrows—David Callahan | |
| Finches—Andy Culshaw | |
| Buntings—Bob Watts | |
| Appendix I & II: Escapes & Hybrids—Andrew Self | |
| First and Last Dates of Regular Migrants 2004 | 147 |
| Ringling Report for 2004—Roger Taylor | 148 |
| Breeding Bird Survey in London, 2004—Ian Woodward | 156 |
| House Sparrow monitoring: 1995–2003—Helen Baker | 158 |
| Meadow Pipits at Walton Heath—Alan Prowse | 166 |
| Book Review: The Birds of Essex—Andrew Self | 174 |
| Checklist of Birds of the London Area | 175 |
| Guide for Contributors of Records | 183 |



Front Cover: Dunlin by Dave Harris

Line Drawings by Jan Wilczur: Mediterranean & Black-headed Gulls (p17), Garganey (p32), Pheasant (p40), Marsh Harrier (p49), Grey Plover (p60), Caspian Gull (p80), Nightingale (p106), Firecrest (p121).

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Introduction

With the recent publication of the double issue London Bird Report for 2002 & 2003 and this issue, we have now made considerable gains in our efforts to catch up although we still have a fair way to go. As can be seen from the following Acknowledgements, the production of this report involves a large number of people apart from the actual recorders, all of whom give their time voluntarily. There has been another change to the recording team with Des McKenzie resuming his role as Inner London recorder from David Darrell-Lambert who has now taken over from myself as Chair of the Records Committee with effect from January 2007.

2004 was a good birding year in London with 221 species recorded, including a first for the area – Hume's Warbler, initially at Fairlop Waters, then at Brent Reservoir. Fortunately, its long stay at Fairlop allowed many people to see this species in the London Area. Controversially, the British Birds Rarities Committee presumed the Brent bird to be the same individual as the Fairlop one. On the face of it, this seems unlikely as the Fairlop bird was present for over three months until spring when it disappeared five days before the Brent sighting. Surely it is more likely to have attempted to migrate either northwards or eastwards back to its breeding grounds rather than undergo a short westward movement. There was an unprecedented influx of Hume's Warblers into the UK in autumn 2003 with 27 accepted records. It seems more likely that one of these birds (or another from the same influx) would account for the Brent sighting as it was found on a day when there was a large fall of warblers at Brent.

It seems that additions to the London List have become a continual feature in recent years. Whilst some of these have been predicted, others have been a complete surprise so it is tempting to speculate on potential additions. Looking back to 1991 when myself and Mark Hardwick last speculated on the next five additions to the London List (Hardwick, M.A and Self, A.S.M., 1991. Rare birds in the London Area 1900-1991. Lond. Bird Rep. 56: 183-211), we successfully predicted Great White Egret, American Golden Plover and Olive-backed Pipit; with Great Reed Warbler and Greenish Warbler yet to occur. It would seem timely then to offer up another list of predictions for the next five birds to occur in London (excluding those that have already occurred in the period after this LBR and to date). They are: Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pallid Swift, Red-eyed Vireo, Greenish Warbler and Yellow-breasted Bunting, with an extreme longshot of House Crow! Whatever does turn up next in London, it will most likely be found by one of the dedicated patch-workers who contribute so much knowledge and information to London's avifauna.

There are many ways in which birders new to London can participate as active members. Becoming a member of the London Natural History Society is a good start as we run a programme of field trips and indoor meetings. There are also online resources such as the London Birders Yahoo! Chat group:

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/londonbirders/> and the London Birders wiki:

http://editthisinfo/londonbirders/Main_Page which has up-to-date news on bird sightings as well as details about many of the places in which to go birding. And of course, all birders are encouraged to submit their records to the appropriate recorder, see Page 6 for details.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Records Committee, it is my pleasure to thank the 727 individual observers as well as other organisations who contributed records for this issue of the London Bird Report.

I'd like to thank all those who worked towards the production of this report, the 15 authors who wrote the systematic list (as named above), Steve Spooner for putting together the database, Martin Grounds for help with data input, Jan Wilczur for his illustrations, Dominic Mitchell for sorting out the colour plates, Mike Trier for editing all the papers and additional data input, and all of the photographers who kindly donated their photos.

I am particularly grateful to all the Recorders, for the time-consuming task of checking through the species accounts in the systematic list and for providing invaluable comments and corrections at the draft stage as well as their responses to my requests for information; to Thames Water for the many courtesies extended to members; and to the following organisations for their generous help in the exchange of records:

Birdguides
British Birds Rarities Committee
British Trust for Ornithology
Buckinghamshire Bird Club
East London Birders Forum
Essex Birdwatching Society
Hertfordshire Natural History Society
Kent Ornithological Society
Surrey Bird Club

Andrew Self, November 2007

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Recording Arrangements

The area covered by this Report, conventionally known as 'the London Area', is the area within 20 miles of St Paul's Cathedral. The Area covers the whole of Greater London and parts of Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. However, for continuity of recording, Watsonian vice counties are used in this Report instead of the present administrative areas (but note that vice counties 18 and 19, South and North Essex, are lumped together as Essex). The vice county boundaries are shown on the map of the Area which follows. There is also a special recording zone for Inner London. This is a rectangular area, five miles north to south, eight miles east to west, centred on the site of the old Charing Cross on the south side of Trafalgar Square, which covers parts of Middx, Surrey and, just, Kent. **A detailed Map of the Area together with a Gazetteer of Sites appears on pages 7 to 14.**

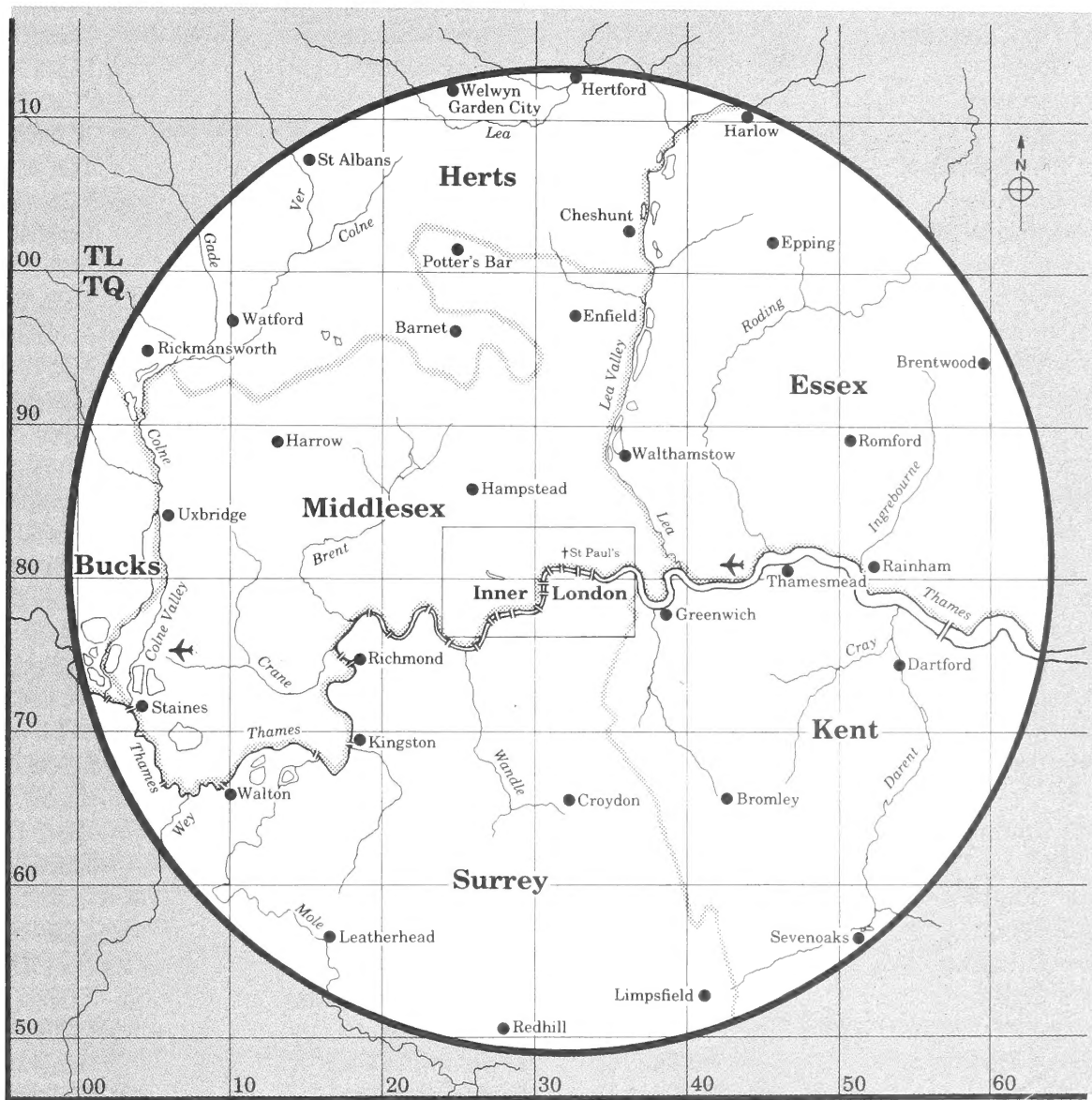
The names used in this Report for certain sites are not shown on, or differ from those on, Ordnance Survey maps. Please consult the Gazetteer of Sites if in any doubt. It would be helpful if these names could be used by observers when submitting records. A National Ordnance Survey Grid Reference should be given in any difficult or doubtful case.

All records of interest are welcome, from LNHS members and non members alike. These include information on the local status of common species, breeding records, notes on migration (including first and last dates and main movements), regular counts of wintering populations and notes on behaviour and on the occurrence of unusual birds. Many of the passerines, in particular, are under recorded. Regular reports from the same localities are invaluable in assessing population trends; such reports, along with comments on changes in status, are always very welcome. **A guide for contributors of records is published in this report** on pages 183 to 186. Records should be sent to the appropriate recorder listed on page 5 or, if in doubt, to the *LBR* Editor.

It will greatly assist the speedy entering of records if the Society's electronic recording sheets are used. These are available from any of the Recorders or the Editor on request. Species should be listed in the sequence as used in this Report. Separate sheets should be used for each recording area. Completed recording sheets for the period January to July should be submitted in August and for the period August to December in early January of the following year.

Records of nationally rare species should be submitted via the local Recorder to the British Birds Rarities Committee as soon as possible after the sighting. Breeding records of rare species should be sent via the local Recorder to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. Where requested, records will of course be treated in strict confidence.

Records of other rare and unusual species in the London Area are examined by the LNHS Records Committee before inclusion in the London Bird Report. Therefore, please complete and submit a *LNHS Unusual Species Description Form* (available from the Recorders or the Editor) or a brief description/copy of your field notes for these species. Please submit these as soon as possible after the sighting. **Species for which a full description or brief description/field notes are required are evident from the 'guide to contributors' at the back of this report.**



Gazetteer of Sites

The following gazetteer is not intended to include every single site mentioned in the *LBR* and omits obvious place names of towns and villages. It does however, seek to identify the whereabouts of productive ornithological sites, well known or otherwise. It is intended to keep this up to date in each future issue of the *LBR*. Each site name is followed by a six-figure Ordnance Survey Grid Reference enabling sites to be pinpointed on the map above. The Grid Reference number either refers to the centre of the site or a point of particular ornithological interest. Readers should note that the inclusion of a site in this gazetteer does not imply public access; indeed some are strictly private or access is by permit only.

There has been considerable confusion caused in the past by contributors of records using inconsistent and unfamiliar place names and we would urge all contributors to use the names listed in this gazetteer whenever appropriate. In doubtful cases, please submit the record along with an Ordnance Survey Grid Reference number.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|
| Aberdare Gardens | TQ260842 | Beverley Brook, Richmond | TQ213726 |
| Abney Park Cemetery | TQ334888 | Bexley Hospital | TQ513727 |
| Acton Green | TQ204790 | Bexley Wood | TQ483737 |
| Addington Hills | TQ353643 | Biggin Hill | TQ457572 |
| Addlestone | TQ056643 | Bishops Wood | TQ066920 |
| Albert Embankment | TQ303783 | Black Park | TQ010836 |
| Aldenham Res | TQ169955 | Blackfriars Bridge | TQ317807 |
| Alderbourne WCB | TQ029850 | Blackheath | TQ390766 |
| Alexandra Park | TQ302900 | Blackwall Basin | TQ381802 |
| Amwell GP | TL380125 | Bletchingley | TQ326506 |
| Apps Court Farm GP | TQ165625 | Blue Lake, Northfleet | TQ622737 |
| Arbrook Common | TQ145630 | Bookham Common | TQ130565 |
| Archbishop's Park | TQ241761 | Borehamwood | TQ195975 |
| Ashford | TQ070715 | Bowman's Heath | TQ518738 |
| Ashtead Common | TQ175595 | Bowmansgreen Farm | TL189041 |
| Aveley Landfill | TQ558812 | Box Wood | TL353096 |
| Balls Wood | TL344106 | Boxer's Lake, Enfield | TQ305962 |
| Banbury Res | TQ362915 | Brent Park | TQ240889 |
| Bangors Park Farm, Iver | TQ035824 | Brent Res | TQ215870 |
| Bankside PS | TQ320806 | Brentford Ait | TQ187778 |
| Banstead Down | TQ252610 | Brickendonbury | TL330104 |
| Banstead Heath | TQ235545 | Bricket Wood/Common | TL130010 |
| Banstead Wood | TQ260560 | Brimsdown | TQ368970 |
| Barking Bay/Marsh | TQ451816 | Brixton Hill | TQ306734 |
| Barnes | TQ222761 | Broad Colney Fields | TL180030 |
| Barnes Common | TQ222758 | Broad Colney Lakes | TL178034 |
| Barn Hill | TQ194874 | Broadgate EC2 | TQ334817 |
| Barwell Court Farm | TQ170630 | Broadwater Lake | TQ045892 |
| Barrack Wood | TQ597915 | Brockwell Park | TQ316740 |
| Batchworth Lake | TQ058940 | Bromley Common | TQ415655 |
| Batler's Green | TL158985 | Brompton Cemetery | TQ258777 |
| Battersea PS | TQ270770 | Brooklands | TQ068620 |
| Battersea Park | TQ282772 | Brookmans Park | TL253038 |
| Bayford | TL310084 | Broomfield Park | TQ304927 |
| Bayhurst Wood | TQ065892 | Broxbourne GP | TL379078 |
| Bealieu Heights Wood | TQ334696 | Broxbourne Woods | TL340080 |
| Beckenham Place Park | TQ385705 | Bruce Castle Park | TQ336908 |
| Beddington Corner | TQ281668 | Brunswick Park | TQ331769 |
| Beddington Park | TQ292654 | Buckhurst Hill GP | TQ425934 |
| Beddington SF | TQ290662 | Buckland SP | TQ227510 |
| Bedfont Lakes/GP | TQ078726 | Buckland, Rectory Lane | TQ219513 |
| Bedford Park | TQ210791 | Bugsby's Reach | TQ398798 |
| Bedfords Park | TQ518925 | Bully Point NR, Stratford | TQ374839 |
| Beech Farm GP | TL190086 | Bulphan Fen | TQ633864 |
| Belair Park | TQ328733 | Burgess Park | TQ335778 |
| Bell Wharf, Harefield | TQ052866 | Burhill Allotments | TQ115635 |
| Bell Lance Fields | TL198040 | Burnt Oak | TQ205912 |
| Belvedere PS | TQ499808 | Burwood Park | TQ100644 |
| Bencroft Wood | TL330064 | Bury Lake | TQ053938 |
| Bentley Priory | TQ155927 | Bushy Park | TQ160690 |
| Berrybushes Wood | TL069007 | Camberwell Old Cemetery | TQ348742 |
| Berrylands | TQ192674 | Camley St Natural Park | TQ298836 |
| Berwick Ponds | TQ543835 | Cannon Hill Common | TQ238683 |
| Bessels Green | TQ505555 | Cannons Park | TQ182915 |
| Betchworth | TQ218505 | Carshalton Beeches | TQ272638 |

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| Cassiobury Park | TQ090970 | Crayford Marsh | TQ532775 |
| Cassiobury Park WCB | TQ090968 | Crayford Ness | TQ532781 |
| Chalfont Lodge | TQ894899 | Creekmouth, Barking | TQ457814 |
| Chalfont Park | TQ013896 | Crews Hill | TQ312000 |
| Chandlers Hill, Iver Hth | TQ035834 | Croham Hurst | TQ337632 |
| Charlton GP | TQ087692 | Crossness | TQ478815 |
| Chelsea Bridge | TQ286778 | Crossness East | TQ492809 |
| Chelsfield | TQ482642 | Crouch End | TQ298885 |
| Chelsham | TQ373589 | Crouch End Rec Ground | TQ295881 |
| Chertsey | TQ043664 | Croxley Green | TQ070955 |
| Chertsey Meads | TQ060662 | Croxley Hall GPs | TQ068943 |
| Cheshunt GP | TL370030 | Croxley Moor | TQ065956 |
| Cheshunt GP (70 Acres GP) | TL874030 | Crystal Palace Park | TQ347707 |
| Cheshunt GP (Bowyer's GP) | TL368018 | Cuddington Golf Club | TQ239615 |
| Cheshunt GP (Friday Lake) | TL371020 | Cuffley | TL303030 |
| Cheshunt GP (Police Pit) | TL371025 | Curtismill Green | TQ519965 |
| Cheshunt GP (North Met GP) | TL369033 | Dagenham Chase | TQ514858 |
| Cheshunt Marsh | TL367018 | Dagenham Corridor | TQ495875 |
| Cheshunt Park Farm | TL355046 | Dagnam Park | TQ550933 |
| Chevening | TQ488577 | Danson Park | TQ473748 |
| Chigwell Res | TQ460937 | Darenth Lake | TQ559710 |
| Chipstead Lake | TQ505565 | Darenth Valley Walk | TQ560704 |
| Chiswell Green | TQ125047 | Darenth Wood | TQ580727 |
| Chiswick Eyot | TQ219779 | Darlands Lake | TQ243943 |
| Chorleywood Common | TQ033963 | Dartford Heath | TQ516733 |
| City Road Basin, Islington | TQ322830 | Dartford Marsh | TQ544774 |
| Clackett Lane Services | TQ425544 | Dartford Marsh Pig Farm | TQ539769 |
| Clapton Common | TQ342878 | Deephams SF | TQ360937 |
| Clay Tye Wood | TQ595587 | Delaford Park | TQ043818 |
| Claybury | TQ435913 | Denham Aerodrome | TQ033887 |
| Claygate Common | TQ161632 | Denham CP | TQ048865 |
| Claygate Green | TQ157637 | Denham Quarry Lake | TQ045870 |
| Clissold Park | TQ332867 | Denham GC | TQ027883 |
| Cobbins Brook | TL409018 | Denham Marsh Farm | TQ020884 |
| Coldfall Wood | TQ276903 | Denham Mount | TQ028874 |
| Cole Green | TL282114 | Denham Place | TQ040873 |
| Colindale | TQ210900 | Denham Station | TQ042878 |
| Colnbrook | TQ025775 | Denham Village | TQ040870 |
| Colne Brook, Iver | TQ042813 | Desborough Island | TQ084664 |
| Colney Heath | TL205062 | Dews Farm Lake | TQ053878 |
| Connaught Water | TQ404933 | Ditton Field | TQ157679 |
| Coopers Green Lane | TL193098 | Dobbs Weir | TL384043 |
| Coopersale | TQ480025 | Dog Kennel Covert | TQ103783 |
| Copped Hall | TL430010 | Downe Barns Farm | TQ105841 |
| Coppetts Wood | TQ277916 | Dulwich College | TQ329736 |
| Copse Wood | TQ085897 | Dulwich Golf Course | TQ339728 |
| Corbets Tey | TQ577851 | Dulwich Mill Pond | TQ333731 |
| Cornmill Meads | TL380011 | Dulwich Park | TQ335735 |
| Coulsdon | TQ296593 | Dulwich Upper Wood | TQ339729 |
| Coursers Lane Fields | TL200040 | Dulwich Village | TQ334739 |
| Court Lane, Dulwich | TQ336739 | Dulwich Woods | TQ340725 |
| Cowley Lake | TQ052814 | Durant's Park, Ponders End | TQ357968 |
| Cowley Peachy | TQ054814 | Eagle Pond | TQ390884 |
| Crane Park | TQ126730 | Easneye Wood | TL385137 |
| Cranley Gardens | TQ289890 | East India Dock Basin | TQ391808 |

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|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|
| East Iver Lakes | TQ047804 | Gutteridge Wood | TQ091843 |
| Edgwarebury Park | TQ190934 | Haberdashers' Girls Sch'l | TL170965 |
| Elmbridge Leisure Centre | TQ107678 | Hackney East Marsh | TQ373859 |
| Enfield Golf Course | TQ313962 | Hackney Marsh | TQ367860 |
| Enfield Lock | TQ368982 | Hadley Common | TQ265972 |
| Enfield Town Park | TQ326963 | Hainault Forest | TQ476932 |
| Epping Forest | TQ420985 | Hall Marsh | TL373017 |
| Epping Upland | TL430050 | Hall Place Gardens | TQ505743 |
| Epsom Common | TQ190605 | Ham Lands | TQ165725 |
| Epsom Downs | TQ211580 | Hampermill Lake | TQ095942 |
| Erith Marsh | TQ488805 | Hampstead Heath | TQ273866 |
| Erith Reach | TQ500788 | Hampton | TQ133700 |
| Esher Common | TQ135625 | Hampton Court Park | TQ166676 |
| Essendon | TL274087 | Hampton Hill | TQ150712 |
| Ewell | TQ217624 | Hampton Waterworks | TQ127686 |
| Eynsford | TQ540655 | Hampton Wick | TQ175699 |
| Fairmile Common | TQ125617 | Hanworth | TQ120718 |
| Fairlop Waters | TQ458459 | Harefield | TQ050900 |
| Farleigh | TQ367602 | Harmondsworth GP | TQ050779 |
| Farlowes Lake | TQ047810 | Harold Wood SF | TQ565915 |
| Farringdon | TQ316818 | Harrow School | TQ157870 |
| Fernyhill Farm, Enfield | TQ282981 | Harrow Weald | TQ150910 |
| Field Common GP | TQ128671 | Hartnips Wood | TQ547637 |
| Finsbury Circus | TQ312816 | Hatch End | TQ130914 |
| Finsbury Park | TQ317875 | Hatfield Aerodrome | TL210090 |
| Fishers Green | TL376044 | Hatfield Park | TL240080 |
| Fitzroy Square | TQ294823 | Hatherop Park | TQ124704 |
| Foots Cray Meadows | TQ480715 | Havering CP | TQ505930 |
| Foots Cray Woods | TQ479721 | Hawk's Wood | TQ014862 |
| Forster Park | TQ387722 | Hawkshead Wood | TQ220030 |
| Forty Hall, Enfield | TQ337987 | Hawkwood | TQ442695 |
| Frays Carp Lake | TQ054865 | Hays Wharf, SE1 | TQ330804 |
| Frays Meadow, Uxbridge | TQ057853 | Headley Heath | TQ200535 |
| Frays Middle Lake | TQ056866 | Headstone | TQ139895 |
| Frays Northern Lake | TQ056868 | Heathfield Rec Ground | TQ134743 |
| Friern Barnet | TQ280925 | Helicon Lake | TQ039909 |
| Frogmore GP, Radlett | TL150033 | Hendon Park | TQ233884 |
| Furzefield Wood | TL103055 | Henley Wood, Chelsham | TQ374587 |
| Gatton Park/Lake | TQ271525 | Herne Hill Cycle Track | TQ326742 |
| Gernon Bushes | TL490085 | Hersham GP | TQ128663 |
| Gladwin's Wood | TQ019864 | Hersham SF | TQ127657 |
| Godstone SP | TQ345518 | Hertford Heath | TL349107 |
| Golders Green | TQ245883 | Hertingfordbury | TL305122 |
| Grays | TQ610773 | Hextable | TQ522712 |
| Grays Chalk Pits | TQ609788 | High Elms | TQ450630 |
| Great Amwell | TL368122 | Highgate Wood | TQ283887 |
| Great Halings Wood | TQ032895 | Highway Farm, Harefield | TQ060881 |
| Great Soloms Wood, Banstead | TQ272588 | Hilfield Park Res | TQ158959 |
| Great Warley | TQ583907 | Hill End | TQ050918 |
| Greenhill Wood, Shoreham | TQ538602 | Hinchley Wood | TQ157650 |
| Greenhithe | TQ585753 | Hither Green Cemetery | TQ398729 |
| Green Park | TQ290800 | Hither Green NR | TQ390740 |
| Greenwich Park | TQ390775 | Hoblingwell Wood | TQ450690 |
| Grovelands Park | TQ305944 | Hoddesdonpark Wood | TL352084 |
| Gunnersbury Triangle NR | TQ201787 | Hogsmill SF | TQ197682 |

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|-----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
| Hogwood | TQ555631 | Limpsfield Chart | TQ445523 |
| Holland Park | TQ248796 | Little Britain Lake | TQ049813 |
| Hollow Pond | TQ414873 | Little Venice | TQ263818 |
| Holmethorpe SP | TQ295515 | Littlebrook Lake | TQ553756 |
| Holyfield Hall Farm | TL384038 | Littlebrook PS | TQ563764 |
| Home Cottage Farm | TQ028825 | London Wetland Centre | TQ228770 |
| Honor Oak | TQ358742 | Long Coppice | TQ031849 |
| Hooks Marsh | TL373023 | Long Ditton | TQ174664 |
| Hornchurch CP | TQ535825 | Long Reach SF | TQ553768 |
| Horsenden Hill | TQ164844 | Lonsdale Road Res | TQ218775 |
| Horton CP | TQ190627 | Lordship Lane Rec Ground | TQ326902 |
| Horton Fields | TQ015764 | Loseberry Farm, Claygate | TQ148636 |
| Horton GP | TQ005753 | Love Hill House Farm, Iver | TQ013810 |
| Horton Kirby | TQ565686 | Lower Feltham | TQ099838 |
| Hounslow Heath | TQ123745 | Lullingstone Lake/Park | TQ523644 |
| Howell Hill, Ewell | TQ238621 | Lynster's Farm | TQ034920 |
| Hunston Mead | TL422114 | Lynsters Lake | TQ038916 |
| Hunton Bridge Hill | TL076006 | Mad Bess Wood | TQ076895 |
| Huntsmoor Park | TQ047815 | Malden Rushett | TQ169615 |
| Hyde Park | TQ270803 | Mansfield Farm, Iver Heath | TQ039836 |
| Hythe | TQ020718 | Maple Lodge NR | TQ036924 |
| Ingrebourne Valley | TQ538843 | Martens Grove | TQ505752 |
| Island Barn Res | TQ140670 | Maryon Wilson Park | TQ419785 |
| Isleworth Ait | TQ167757 | Mayfield Lakes | TQ052789 |
| Itchingwood Common | TQ416506 | Mayow Park | TQ358718 |
| Iver Heath | TQ033835 | Merchant Taylors' School | TQ088940 |
| Jersey Farm | TL174097 | Merstham Sewage Works | TQ303523 |
| Joyce Green Hospital | TQ547760 | Middlesex Filter Beds | TQ359865 |
| Joyce Green Hospital Farm | TQ545765 | Mill Green SF | TL245100 |
| Joyden's Wood | TQ500715 | Millwall Docks | TQ377795 |
| Jubilee Gardens | TQ318803 | Mitcham Common | TQ290675 |
| Juniper Hill, Rickmansworth | TQ060931 | Moat Mount Open Space | TQ215944 |
| Juniper Wood | TQ025895 | Molesey GP | TQ129671 |
| Kelsey Park | TQ376688 | Molesey Heath | TQ132672 |
| Kempton Park | TQ117700 | Moor Mill | TL145030 |
| Kempton Park Res | TQ122702 | Moor Park GC | TQ075935 |
| Kenley Aerodrome | TQ328587 | Moorhall Lake | TQ048889 |
| Kensington Gardens | TQ270803 | Moorhouse | TQ433532 |
| Kenton Recreation Ground | TQ165890 | Morden Hall Park | TQ264687 |
| Keston Ponds | TQ426645 | Muswell Hill | TQ282900 |
| Kevington | TQ482675 | Nashes Farm | TL180096 |
| Kew Gardens | TQ182769 | Navestock Lake/Park | TQ538985 |
| King George V Res | TQ374964 | Nazeing GP | TL385072 |
| King George VI Res | TQ041732 | Netherhall GP | TL394083 |
| King's Cross Development | TQ834302 | New Beckenham | TQ367710 |
| Korda Lake | TQ045886 | New Cross Railway Cutting | TQ363768 |
| Kynaston Wood | TQ482672 | New Denham | TQ046849 |
| Ladywell Park | TQ372740 | New Southgate | TQ292925 |
| Lafone St, SE1 | TQ338799 | Nightingale Wood | TQ038888 |
| Laleham Park | TQ053680 | Noke Farm | TL125037 |
| Langley Park | TQ013814 | Nonsuch Park | TQ232638 |
| Layham's Farm | TQ400627 | Norbury Park | TQ310699 |
| Leaves Green | TQ415615 | North Cray | TQ490723 |
| Lee | TQ395750 | Northaw Great Wood | TL285044 |
| Limpsfield | TQ402531 | Northolt RAF Aerodrome | TQ100850 |

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| Norwood Grove | TQ333704 | Putney Heath | TQ230739 |
| Nower Wood | TQ195547 | Pygro Park | TQ524935 |
| Nunhead Cemetery | TQ355756 | Queen Elizabeth II Res | TQ120670 |
| Nutfield Ridge | TQ293540 | Queen Mary GP | TQ059700 |
| Oak Hill Park | TQ277947 | Queen Mary Res | TQ070695 |
| Oak Hill Wood | TQ280952 | Queen Mother Res | TQ017773 |
| Oakend Wood | TQ020890 | Queens Wood, Highgate | TQ283887 |
| Oakmere Park | TL264014 | Rainham GP | TQ549829 |
| Old Parkbury | TL163023 | Rainham Marsh | TQ525800 |
| Old Slade Lake | TQ040780 | Rammey Marsh | TQ996374 |
| Old Wood, Richings Park | TQ031781 | Ranston Covert | TQ041890 |
| One Tree Hill, Honor Oak | TQ354743 | Ravensbury Park | TQ268681 |
| Ongar Park Wood | TL495025 | Ravenscourt Park | TQ223790 |
| Orlitts North Lake | TQ041780 | Raynes Park | TQ231684 |
| Orlitts South Lake | TQ039775 | Regent's Park | TQ277830 |
| Orsett Fen | TQ628833 | Reigate Hill | TQ255522 |
| Osterley Park | TQ145780 | Richings Park | TQ030794 |
| Oxhey Wood | TQ105925 | Richmond Park | TQ200730 |
| Oxleas Wood | TQ450686 | Rickmansworth Aquadrome | TQ057940 |
| Oxted, Hurst Green | TQ396512 | Riddlesdown | TQ326602 |
| Oylers Farm | TL350005 | Ridgehill | TL202025 |
| Panshanger Park | TL283130 | Riverside Open Space | TQ143693 |
| Park Downs, Banstead | TQ267585 | Rockingham Rec Ground | TQ058837 |
| Park Farm, Chessington | TQ181623 | Roding Valley Meadows | TQ435956 |
| Park Farm, Enfield | TQ292983 | Roehyde | TL210010 |
| Park Street GP | TL149024 | Rowdown Wood | TQ547595 |
| Park Wood | TQ095890 | Rowley Farm | TQ004828 |
| Parkland Walk | TQ294902 | Royal Albert Dock | TQ425807 |
| Parkside Farm/Res, Enfield | TQ303982 | Royal Oak Lake | TQ034915 |
| Parndon Meads | TL433113 | Royal Victoria Dock | TQ410807 |
| Paynes Lane GP | TL380052 | Ruislip Common | TQ085893 |
| Paynesfield North Lake | TQ038912 | Ruislip Gardens | TQ095863 |
| Paynesfield South Lake | TQ035910 | Ruislip Lido | TQ089891 |
| Peckham Rye Park | TQ348750 | Rush Green, Hertford | TL350127 |
| Pen Ponds, Richmond Park | TQ200730 | Rushett Farm | TQ173608 |
| Penton Hook | TQ043692 | Ruxley GP | TQ473700 |
| Perry Oaks SF | TQ054758 | Rye Meads RSPB | TL388100 |
| Petersham Meadows | TQ180736 | Salisbury Hall Farm | TL195028 |
| Petts Wood | TQ445670 | Sanderstead | TQ344614 |
| Pickett's Lock | TQ361945 | Savay Lake | TQ049880 |
| Pilvage Wood | TL236028 | Saxten's Wood | TQ585648 |
| Pinner Park | TQ132905 | Scadbury Park | TQ455700 |
| Polhill | TQ500610 | Scotsbridge Meadows | TQ064955 |
| Pond Wood | TL279006 | Scratch Wood, Surrey | TQ271593 |
| Ponders End Lake | TQ362946 | Sevenoaks WR | TQ522570 |
| Poplar Docks | TQ382803 | Sewardstone | TQ379985 |
| Post Wood | TL363131 | Shadwell Basin | TQ352807 |
| Potters Bar | TL250012 | Sheen Common | TQ196746 |
| Potters Crouch Plantation | TL103050 | Sheepwash Pond | TQ224928 |
| Prae Wood | TQ120070 | Shenleybury | TL183018 |
| Primrose Hill | TQ276839 | Shepherds Bush | TQ228805 |
| Prince George's Playing Fields | TQ235688 | Shepperton GP | TQ065674 |
| Princes Coverts | TQ160610 | Silvertown | TQ412799 |
| Purfleet | TQ550783 | Slipe Lane GP | TL370049 |
| Purfleet Chalk Pits | TQ566785 | Smallford GP | TL198071 |

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| Sopwell Mill, St Albans | TL154054 | Thrift's Pit | TL366132 |
| South Harrow | TQ135861 | Thorndon Park | TQ620916 |
| South Norwood CP | TQ353684 | Thorney CP | TQ048790 |
| South Norwood Lake | TQ341693 | Thorney Weir Lake Lake | TQ051799 |
| South Ruislip | TQ115860 | Thorpe Water Park | TQ030681 |
| Southwood Manor Farm | TQ116632 | Tilehouse North Lake | TQ038898 |
| Sparrows Wood | TQ436667 | Tilehouse South Lake | TQ038896 |
| Spitalfields/Bishopsgate | TQ334818 | Titsey | TQ409551 |
| Spring Ponds | TQ165932 | Tolpits Lake | TQ085943 |
| Springfield Marina | TQ347878 | Tolworth | TQ194659 |
| Springfield Park | TQ347875 | Tooting Common | TQ292724 |
| Springwell Lake | TQ043932 | Tottenham Cemetery | TQ333911 |
| Springwell Lock | TQ044923 | Tottenham Lock | TQ348895 |
| Springwell Reedbed | TQ041924 | Tottenham Marsh | TQ354910 |
| St Ann's Hill, Chertsey | TQ038674 | Totteridge Long Pond | TQ234942 |
| St James's Park | TQ294798 | Tower Bridge | TQ337802 |
| St Saviour's Creek, SE1 | TQ340799 | Tower Hamlets Cemetery | TQ370823 |
| St Thomas's Hospital | TQ307793 | Tower of London | TQ337806 |
| Stain Hill Res | TQ124693 | Tower Wood, Westerham | TQ448528 |
| Staines Moor | TQ033734 | Trent Park | TQ290970 |
| Staines Res | TQ051731 | Trevereux/Swaynesland | TQ433504 |
| Stanborough Lakes | TL230108 | Troy Mill Lake | TQ039905 |
| Stanmore CP | TQ175930 | Turnford Brook | TL368037 |
| Stanmore Common | TQ156940 | Turnford Marsh GP | TL370044 |
| Stanstead Abbotts GP | TL391109 | Tyler's Common, Upminster | TQ568907 |
| Stanwell Moor | TQ040743 | Tyttenhanger GP | TQ191865 |
| Stanwell Moor GP | TQ034744 | Upper Halliford | TQ091680 |
| Stapleford Tawney | TQ503900 | Upper Norwood | TQ329699 |
| Streatham Common | TQ305709 | Vauxhall Bridge | TQ303781 |
| Stocker's Lake | TQ046935 | Verulamium Lake | TL140070 |
| Stocker's West Lake | TQ042934 | Vicarage Farm, Enfield | TQ305975 |
| Stocker's Farm | TQ053934 | Victoria Park | TQ360837 |
| Stockley Park | TQ080790 | Waddon Ponds | TQ309650 |
| Stoke Newington Res | TQ326876 | Walligton Green Nurseries | TQ290625 |
| Stone Chalk Pit | TQ566753 | Walsingham Wood | TL243040 |
| Stone Lake | TQ565752 | Waltham Cross | TL362003 |
| Stone Marsh | TQ568755 | Waltham Cross GP | TL369006 |
| Sundridge Park | TQ410700 | Waltham Marsh | TL373013 |
| Surrey Docks | TQ360797 | Walthamstow Marsh | TQ350878 |
| Sutton at Hone Lakes | TQ560700 | Walthamstow Res | TQ353980 |
| Swanscombe Marsh | TQ605760 | Walton Heath | TQ232540 |
| Sydenham Hill | TQ335722 | Walton Res | TQ122685 |
| Symondshyde Great Wood | TL195110 | Wandsworth Common | TQ274741 |
| Syon Park | TQ175765 | Wanstead Park | TQ415875 |
| Tandridge | TQ376505 | Warley Place | TQ582909 |
| Tatling End | TQ020870 | Warlingham | TQ358581 |
| Telegraph Hill, Claygate | TQ159647 | Waterlow Park | TQ286872 |
| Ten Acre Wood | TQ094720 | Watermeads | TQ275675 |
| Thames Ditton | TQ158673 | Waterworks NR | TQ363868 |
| Thamesmead | TQ474811 | Watts Wood, Purfleet | TQ565788 |
| The Basin, Edgware | TQ188919 | Weald Park | TQ570945 |
| The Causeway NR | TQ105754 | Welham Green | TL235055 |
| The Clump, Iver Heath | TQ022845 | Wells Park | TQ345717 |
| Theobalds Park, Enfield | TL345005 | West Byfleet | TQ048607 |
| Thistledene, Thames Ditton | TQ155673 | West End Common | TQ125632 |

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| West Hyde Fields | TQ030910 | Windsor Open Space | TQ241905 |
| West India South Dock | TQ376800 | Winterdown Woods | TQ123622 |
| West Kingsdown | TQ580626 | Wintry Wood | TL475035 |
| West Ruislip GC | TQ081872 | Wm Girling Res | TQ367945 |
| West Thurrock | TQ582770 | Woldingham | TQ370572 |
| Westerham Heights | TQ430560 | Wood Green Res | TQ304900 |
| Westminster Bridge | TQ305796 | Woodford GC | TQ395928 |
| Wey Meadows, Weybridge | TQ067645 | Woodlands Park | TQ038830 |
| Whitgift Centre, Croydon | TQ323657 | Woodlands Park Lake | TQ043826 |
| Whippendell Wood | TL075978 | Woodmansterne | TQ276597 |
| Whitewebbs Wood/Lake | TQ325997 | Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross | TQ033933 |
| Whyteleafe | TQ337582 | Worcester Park | TQ222655 |
| Wick Woodland | TQ370854 | Wormley Wood | TL322058 |
| Willett Wood | TQ452685 | Wormwood Scrubs | TQ221818 |
| Wimbledon Common | TQ247723 | Wraysbury GP | TQ015735 |
| Wimbledon Park | TQ246723 | Wraysbury Res | TQ025745 |
| Wimbledon Park Lake | TQ247724 | Yeading Brook Meadows | TQ105835 |
| Winchmore Hill | TQ316946 | Yiewsley Lake | TQ050804 |

Review of the Year 2004

There was one addition to the London List, a long-staying Hume's Warbler at Fairlop; with another, or possibly the same, at Brent Res in May.

January

The year started with the Great Northern Diver at Essex Arena GP from 2003, the only one recorded all year. The bird of the year came early when a Hume's Warbler was discovered at Fairlop Waters on 11th. Winter wildfowl were generally low in numbers although there was a small influx of Smew which peaked at 24 at Thorpe Water Park on Jan 17th. Two flocks of White-fronted Geese were seen: 13 over Walthamstow Res on 17th and 17 over Fishers Green on 25th. A Twite flew over Hogsmill SF on 26th.

February

The mild conditions meant few new birds were discovered apart from Iceland Gulls at Amwell (from 13th) and West Hyde (from 16th), and a Glaucous Gull at Beddington SF/Island Barn Res (from 13th).

March

A flock of 26 Avocets at Swanscombe Marsh on Mar 7th was a record count for London. The following day, a Bewick's Swan was at Sevenoaks WR. A Fulmar drifted up the Thames at Northfleet on 10th. A White Stork was seen at South Ockenden on 18th, the first of many sightings in London this year.

April

On Apr 1st, a White Stork flew over four sites in S/W London. At Dagenham Chase NR, a pair of stunning summer-plumaged Slavonian Grebes took up residence from 3rd and were seen displaying. A Ring-billed Gull found in the roost at Queen Mother Res on Apr 11th also seen later in the year. Towards the end of the month the first exotic migrants appeared, with a Hoopoe at Rainham Marshes on 27th and two Bluethroats at the Wetland Centre from 29th.

May

A Hume's Warbler was found at Brent Res on 1st. Also on 1st, an impressive 61 Little Gulls flew over Rye Meads and the following day a Stone Curlew was discovered at Dartford Marsh. On 5th, a male Golden Oriole was seen at Bushy Park and a Night Heron was found at the Wetland Centre. A White Stork was seen at Amwell GP on 11th and at Whipps Cross Common on 18th and 24th. The Wetland Centre got their first ever Red-backed Shrike on 15th and another Night Heron was found, this time at Sevenoaks WR on 17th.

June

An unexpected flyover at Oxleas Wood on June 13th was a Gannet. Another rare flyover was a Black Kite at Ilford on 25th, the seventh record for London. The touring

White Stork finally found an area to its liking enabling many birders to add it to their London lists when it settled at New Denham from 30th to July 3rd.

July

A quiet month, with just a Gannet flying down the Thames at Crayford/Dartford Marshes on July 4th.

August

A Red-backed Shrike was seen at Hampstead Heath on Aug 7th, followed by an immature White-winged Black Tern at the Wetland Centre the next day. The big event of the month was the extraordinary movement of waders, beginning on 8th when a single flock of about 170 Grey Plovers was seen flying near Limpsfield Chart, peaking with a flock of 100+ Bar-tailed Godwits, 50 Black-tailed Godwits, a party of 40+ Knot, 38 Greenshank, 33 Redshank and nine Whimbrel all at Staines Res on Aug 10th, followed by 21 Ruff there the next day. Staines Res continued to attract waders all month, with the first of four Pectoral Sandpipers there from Aug 22nd and a flock of 32 Knot on 28th. Elsewhere, the highlights were a Honey Buzzard over Wormwood Scrubs and then the Wetland Centre on 22nd and a different bird over Hilfield Park Res the same day, followed by an Ortolan Bunting at Beddington SF on 27th.

September

Seabirds were the order of the month with a Long-tailed Skua at Staines Res and an Arctic Skua at Thamesmead on Sept 9th; a Manx Shearwater at Staines on 12th; a Great Skua at Queen Mother Res from 22nd-26th (another welcome addition on many London lists); a Manx Shearwater found grounded at Tolworth on 22nd; five Arctic Skuas over Queen Mother Res on 23rd; and a Leach's Petrel at Staines Res on 24th. Also seen were the second White-winged Black Tern of the year, at QE II Res on 6th; a Honey Buzzard over Horton CP on 12th; a Spotted Crake at Hornchurch CP from 18th-26th, a Ring-billed Gull at South Norwood CP on 20th; and 15 Brent Geese over the Wetland Centre on 22nd.

October

There was a small influx of wild swans with four Whoopers at Tyttenhanger GP on Oct 9th and single Bewick's at Beddington SF on 12th and at the Wetland Centre from 16th. At Northfleet, 11 Brent Geese flew over on 10th, with another four on 11th, the same day an Arctic Skua was seen there. A Leach's Petrel was at Queen Mother Res on 16th and an Alpine Swift flew over the Wetland Centre the next day. A Spotted Crake was present at Beddington SF from 21st-30th and at QE II Res, there was a Purple Sandpiper on 25th.

November

The regular build up of wintering Black-necked Grebes at Girling Res reached a new peak of 23 during the month. A flock of c25 Brent Geese flew over KGVII Res on Nov 2nd. At Queen Mother Res, a flock of 90 Common Scoter on 8th was a new London record count. Also on 8th, a Leach's Petrel was at Girling Res. At Rainham Marshes, 25 Brent Geese were seen on 10th and at Walthamstow Res, three Bewick's Swans flew over on 24th.

December

On Dec 1st, there were seven White-fronted Geese at Rainham Marshes. The next day there were two Bean Geese at Rye Meads. A drake Green-winged Teal was found at the Wetland Centre on 5th. The fourth Leach's Petrel of the year was at QE II Res on 6th. At Staines Res, there was a Bean Goose on 8th. The year's only Red-throated Diver was at QE II Res on 9th. A Richard's Pipit at Staines Moor on 11th was the first one in December in London. More scarce winter wildfowl occurred with a Whooper Swan at Rye Meads on 12th, nine White-fronted Geese at Holyfield Hall Farm from 18th-26th and 10 Bewick's Swans at Walthamstow Res on 19th. The Little Egret winter roost at Broadwater Lake peaked at 34 and finally three Penduline Tits were found at Rainham Marshes on Dec 29th.



Contributors to the Systematic List

All contributors of ornithological records to the Society in 2004 are listed below. We apologise if any names have been inadvertently omitted. Many records of scarce species listed in this LBR are attributed to the observer who found or reported the bird and the attribution normally consists of the observer's initials. However if more than one observer possesses the same initials, a letter from the attributed observer's surname may be used.

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|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| J. Abbott (JA) | C. Bates (CBs) | C. Bourne (CBe) |
| D. Abrahams (DAs) | L.A. Batten (LAB) | C. Bowden (CBn) |
| R. Ackroyd (RA) | N.S. Batten (NSB) | C. Brackenbury (CBy) |
| N.E. Agar (NEA) | M. Baverstock (MBk) | P.A. Bradley (PABy) |
| I. Alexander (IA) | C.M. Beach (CMB) | D. Bradnum (DBn) |
| P. Alfrey (PA) | J. Beckett (JBt) | H.T. Bradshaw (HBw) |
| J.P. Allan (JPA) | R. Beddard (RB) | I. Bradshaw (IBw) |
| P.S.A. Allday (PSAA) | Beddington Bird Report (BBR) | J. Braggs (JBs) |
| D. Anderson (DAn) | Beddington Farm Breeding | M. Braun (MBR) |
| N. Anderson (NA) | Survey (BFBS) | P. Brayshaw (PBw) |
| D. Andrews (DA) | Beddington Farm Wader | P. Briers (PBrs) |
| M. Andrews (MA) | Survey (BFWS) | P. Briggs (PBs) |
| R. & D. Andrews (RDA) | J. Bedford (JB) | A. Bright (AB) |
| R.D. Andrews (RAs) | D. Beely (DB) | P. Bright-Thomas (PBT) |
| S. Andrews (SA) | A.A. Bell (AAB) | N. Bristow (NB) |
| J. Arbon (JAb) | I. Bennell (IB) | D. Brix (DBx) |
| M.W. Archer (MWA) | B.T. Bennett (BTB) | G. Broad (GBd) |
| R.J. Arnfield (RJA) | J. Benson (JBe) | P. Bromhead (PBd) |
| M. Ashton (MAN) | N. Bentley (NBy) | F. Broom (FB) |
| D. Atkins (DAs) | J. Berend (JBd) | M. Brown (MBrn) |
| T. Austin (TA) | Berkshire Bird Club (BeBC) | N. Brown (NBn) |
| G. Avison (GA) | J.R. Bexley (JRB) | P. Brown (PBn) |
| R. Ayers (RAy) | H. Birchall (HBi) | M. Browning (MBg) |
| S. Bacon (SBn) | Birdguides (BG) | T. Brownsell (TB) |
| G. Bailey (GB) | Birdline South-East (BLSE) | BTO Migration Watch (BTO) |
| C. Baines (CB) | A. Birkenshaw (ABw) | Buckingham Palace Bird |
| B. Baker (BB) | J. Birkett (JBk) | Report (BPBR) |
| H. Baker (HB) | M. Birnstingl (MBI) | Bucks Bird Group (BBG) |
| P. Baker (PB) | S. Blackmore (SBe) | L. Budgen (LBn) |
| C. Bantock (CBk) | R.A. Blades (RAB) | R. Bullock (RBk) |
| S.E. Barbato (SEB) | A. Blake (ABe) | M. Bunce (MB) |
| R. Bargiel (RBI) | K. Blake (KBe) | I. Burrus (IBs) |
| D.J. Barker (DJB) | D. Blamire (DBe) | S. Burt (SBt) |
| Barn Elms N.H. Group | P. Blatcher (PBr) | J. Butcher (JBr) |
| (BENHG) | V.E. Blunden (VEB) | R. Buxton (RBn) |
| G. Barnes (GBs) | C. & B. Bockett (CBB) | M. Cabourn-Smith (MCS) |
| R. Barnes (RBs) | L. Bodini (LBi) | G.D. Caine (GDC) |
| K. Barrett (KB) | N. Bond (NBd) | T.S. Caine (TSC) |
| P.A. Barrett (PABt) | R. Bonser (RBr) | D. Callahan (DCn) |
| J. Barrington (JBn) | J. Boorman (JBo) | R.M. Callf (RMC) |
| G. Barter (GBr) | D. Booth (DBh) | F.R. Cannings (FRC) |
| M. Barton (MBn) | D.J. Booth (DJBh) | G. Carr (GC) |
| A.D. Bassett (ADB) | L. Borg (LB) | J. Cass (JCs) |
| S. Bater (SB) | K. Boudreau (KBu) | P.J. Casselton (PJC) |

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| M.N. Chaffe (MNC) | A. Davidson (ADn) | L.J Finch (LJF) |
| B. Chambers (BC) | A. Davies (ADs) | B. Fisher (BF) |
| N. Chambers (NCs) | P. Davies (PD) | P. Fitzgibbon (PFn) |
| C. Chan (CC) | R.C.V.V. Davies (RCVVD) | J. Fitzpatrick (JFk) |
| J. Chapman (JCn) | D. Davis (DDs) | J.& M. Fitzpatrick (JMF) |
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| T. Chapman (TC) | B. Dawton (BD) | C. Fleming (CF) |
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| P. Chasteauneuf (PCf) | D. Dean (DD) | D. Fletcher (DFr) |
| A. Cheeseman (ACh) | C. Dee (CD) | R. Fletcher (RF) |
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| P. Clack (PC) | K. Denny (KD) | S. Fogg (SF) |
| A. Clancy (AC) | A. Dent (ADt) | N.& E. Ford (NEF) |
| B.A.J. Clark (BAJC) | M. Dent (MD) | D.& S. Forder (DSF) |
| D. Clark (DCk) | J. Dingemans (JD) | S. Forder (SFR) |
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| M. Clarke (MCe) | R. Douglas (RD) | J. Forrester (JFR) |
| R. Clements (RC) | E. Drewitt (ED) | K. Fox (KF) |
| B.D. Clews (BDC) | R. Dryden (RDn) | M. Frankling (MF) |
| M Coath (MC) | A.R. Duckett (ARD) | M. Free (MFe) |
| D. Coe (DCe) | K. Dugmore (KDe) | J. Freeman (JFn) |
| H.C. Coe (HCC) | S.M. Dungey (SMD) | D. Funnell (DFI) |
| D.A. Coleman (DAC) | East London Birders Forum | A. Fure (AFe) |
| L. Collins (LCs) | (ELBF) | J. Gale (JG) |
| M. Collins-Free (MCF) | D. Edwards (DE) | S.W. Gale (SWG) |
| J. Colmans (JC) | I. Edwards (IEs) | P. Gann (PGn) |
| S. Connor (SC) | J. Edwards (JE) | A. Gardener (AGr) |
| A. Cook (ACk) | P.J. Edwards (PJE) | A. Gardiner (AG) |
| M. Cook (MCK) | D.J. Eland (DJEd) | J. Gardiner (JGr) |
| M. Cooke (MCo) | I.S. Ellis (ISE) | N. Gardner (NG) |
| S. Coombs (SCs) | J. Elphick (JEk) | J. Gaskell (JGI) |
| M. Coon (MCn) | D. Emery (DEy) | S.J. Gatley (SJG) |
| D. Cooper (DCr) | D. England (DEd) | D. Gedge (DGe) |
| D.S. Corben (DSC) | C. English (CE) | C. Gellor (CG) |
| K. Cotton (KCn) | Essex Birdwatching Society | A. Gibbs (AGi) |
| M. Cotton (MCon) | (EBS) | N. Gilbert (NGt) |
| R. Cousins (RCo) | C. Evans (CEs) | S. Gilbert (SG) |
| M. Craig (MCg) | D. Evans (DEs) | T. Gilbert (TG) |
| J. Crew (JCw) | H.W. Evans (HWE) | E. Gill (EG) |
| R. Cripps (RCs) | L.G.R. Evans (LGRE) | G.W. Gill (GWG) |
| A Crocker (ACr) | R.D. Evans (RDE) | M. Gill (MG) |
| S. Crockford (SCd) | S. Evans (SE) | Q. Given (QG) |
| P. Cropper (PCr) | C.M. Everett (CME) | T.W. Gladwin (TWG) |
| N. Crossley (NC) | I. Eyre (IE) | C. Glanville (CGe) |
| J. Crystal (JCI) | R.D Facer (RDF) | A.P. Goddard (APG) |
| A.J. Culshaw (AJC) | B.P. Fagan (BPF) | T. Goddard (TGd) |
| L. Cumming (LC) | R.E. Falkner (REF) | D. Gompertz (DGz) |
| D. Curtis (DC) | P. Fallance (PF) | M. Goodman (MGn) |
| G. Curtis (GCs) | J.D. Fearnside (JFe) | T. Goodwin (TGn) |
| T. Dackus (TD) | A. Feltham (AF) | E. Goodyear (EGr) |
| G.J.R. Dagnall (GJRD) | D.M Ferguson (DMF) | W. Gordon (WG) |
| A J A Dally (AJAD) | M. Ferris (MFs) | S. Goron (SGn) |
| I. Darbyshire (ID) | S. Field (SFd) | A. Gowland (AGd) |
| D.G. Darrell-Lambert (DGDL) | D. Fielding (DF) | J. Gowland (JGd) |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| J. Gray (JGy) | T. Hodge (THe) | M. Kaemena (MK) |
| B. Green (BGn) | A. Hodges (AHO) | G. Kalli (GKi) |
| N. Green (NGn) | J. Hollingdale (JHe) | R. Kaye (RK) |
| R. Green (RG) | T. Holman (THn) | I. Kendall (IK) |
| R. Greenhalgh (RGh) | P. Holpin (PHn) | A. Kennelly (AKy) |
| P. Gregory (PGy) | M.R. Honey (MRH) | I. Kerr (IKr) |
| M. Grey (MGy) | D. Hood (DHd) | R.H. Kettle (RHK) |
| D. Griffin (DG) | J. Hopkins (JHo) | F. Keymer (FK) |
| W. Griffin (WGn) | P. Hopkins (PHs) | M.W. Kilby (MWK) |
| A. Griffiths (AGs) | G. Horn (GHn) | R. Kilgour (RKi) |
| A. Grimsey (AGy) | P. Horne (PHe) | R. Kilminster (RKr) |
| M.J. Grounds (MJG) | R. Horrocks (RHo) | C. Kilner (CK) |
| P. Gurr (PG) | D. Housley (DHy) | M. Kings (MKs) |
| D. Haldane (DHe) | P Howells (PHo) | D.C. Knight (DK) |
| A. Halfpenny (AHy) | M. Howes (MHs) | G. Knight (GK) |
| S. Hall (SHl) | M. Hows (MHw) | P. Lambert (PLt) |
| M. Hallam (MH) | S. Huggins (SHn) | C. Lamsdell (CL) |
| V. Halley-Frame (VHF) | C. Hughes (CHs) | M.B. Lancaster (ML) |
| A. Hamilton (AHn) | C. Hull (CH) | R.R. Langley (RRL) |
| S. Hamilton (SH) | N. Hurry (NHy) | C. Langsdon (CLn) |
| P. Hamling (PHg) | A. Hurst (AHt) | J.R. Laundon (JRL) |
| J. Hannam (JH) | F. Hurst (FH) | P. Lawrence (PLe) |
| A. Hardacre (AHe) | R.A. Husband (RAH) | A. Lawson (AL) |
| J. Harlow (JHw) | D. Hutchinson (DHn) | A. Layfield (ALd) |
| A. Harris (AH) | A. Hutson (AHu) | A. Lazell (ALl) |
| A.J. Harris (AJH) | P. Hyde (PHY) | Lea Valley Park Rangers |
| D.M. Harris (DMH) | Hyde Pk & Kensington Gdns | (LVPR) |
| G.J. Harris (GJH) | Bird Report (HPKGBR) | P. Leader (PLr) |
| R. Harris (RHs) | M. Ilett (MI) | E. Leahy (ELe) |
| S.H. Harris (SHH) | R.J. Ingold (RJI) | S. Ledig (SL) |
| S.R. Harris (SRH) | A. Innes (AI) | A. Lee (ALe) |
| G. Harrison (GH) | R.E. Innes (REI) | J. Leeke (JL) |
| L. Harrison (LH) | C. James (CJ) | C. Leonard (CLd) |
| S. Harrison (SHa) | G. James (GJ) | A. Lewis (ALs) |
| Harrow NHS (HNHS) | S. Javes (SJ) | H. Lewis (HL) |
| J. Harvey (JHy) | A.P. Jeffery (APJ) | P. Lewis (PL) |
| S. Harvey (SHy) | D. Jenkinson (DJn) | D.J. Lindo (DJL) |
| N. Harwood (NH) | R. Jenkinson (RJ) | F. Lineham (FL) |
| A. Hatfield (AHd) | A. Jewels (AJ) | D.J. Ling (DJLg) |
| W.A. Hatton (WAH) | D. Jobbins (DJo) | LNHS Ornithological Bulletin |
| D. Hawkes (DH) | D.C. Johnson (DCJ) | (LNHS) |
| J. Hawkins (JHs) | J. Johnson (JJ) | R. Love (RL) |
| P. Hawkins (PH) | R. Johnson (RJn) | A. Lovett (ALt) |
| J. Haworth (JHh) | G. Johnson-Smith (GJS) | D.P. Lowman (DPL) |
| A. Haynes (AHs) | M. Johnston (MJ) | G. Lunn (GL) |
| C.D.R. Heard (CDRH) | A. Jones (AJn) | M.J. Lunn (MJL) |
| Herts Biological Records | C. Jones (CJs) | D.E. Lyven (DEL) |
| Centre (HBRC) | C.D.R. Jones (CDRJ) | A. Mackay (AMy) |
| Herts Bird Club (HBC) | D. Jones (DJs) | D. Mackey (DMy) |
| R. Hick (RH) | M. Jones (MJes) | H. Mackie (HM) |
| Hilfield Reservoir Bird Report | P.E. Jones (PEJ) | M. MacQuitty (MM) |
| (HRBR) | D. Jordan (DJ) | G. Maddison (GM) |
| T. Hill (TH) | M. Jordan (MJn) | J. Main (JM) |
| S. Hiscock (SHk) | T. Jupe (TJ) | I.R. Malcolm (IR) |
| B. Hoare (BH) | C.R. Jupp (CRJ) | R. Malcolm (RM) |

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| C. Mann (CM) | J. Mould (JMI) | S. & J. Perry (SJP) |
| R. Mansfield (RMd) | N.J. Murphy (NJM) | N.R. Peters (NRP) |
| P. Mantle (PM) | T. Murphy (TM) | C. Pettigrew (CP) |
| Maple Cross Ringing Group (MCRG) | S.H. Murray (SHM) | B. Phillips (BP) |
| Maple Lodge Bird Report (MLBR) | J. Nash (JNh) | J. Picton (JPn) |
| A. Marett (AMt) | N. Nash (NN) | G. Pittaway (GP) |
| F.J. Maroevic (FJM) | A. Nasir (AN) | A. Platt (APt) |
| M. Marriott (MMt) | A. Naylor (ANr) | C. & S. Poole (CSP) |
| B.A. Marsh (BAM) | P. Naylor (PN) | N. Pope (NP) |
| J. Martin (JMa) | R. Neave (RN) | R. Poppleton (RPn) |
| E. Martyn (EM) | M. Netherwood (MN) | S.G. Posen (SPo) |
| J. Mason (JMn) | W. Neunham (WN) | S. Postlethwaite (SPte) |
| A. Matthew (AMw) | J. Newton (JN) | K.G. Poulton (KGP) |
| L. Matthews (LM) | G.C. Nicholls (GCN) | S. Poynter (SPr) |
| J. Mayall (JMII) | G. Nichols (GNs) | K. Prentice (KPe) |
| P. & A. Mayes (PAM) | H. Nicholson (HN) | A. Pringle (APr) |
| A. McCormick (AMk) | L. Nicholson (LN) | J. Pritchard (JPd) |
| B. McGrew (BMG) | G. Noble (GN) | A. Prowse (APe) |
| M. McKee (MMe) | M.J. Oakland (MJO) | R. Pryde (RPe) |
| D.T. McKenzie (DTM) | James Oates (JaO) | K.L. Purdey (KLP) |
| G McKinney (GMK) | John Oates (JoO) | R. Pyrah (RPh) |
| K.J. McManus (KJM) | J. O'Brien (JO) | J. Quail (JQ) |
| M. McManus (MMM) | W.E. Oddie (WEO) | A. Quinn (AQ) |
| P. McManus (PMM) | P.J. Oliver (PJO) | M. Ralph (MR) |
| M. McNabb (MMN) | M. Orchard (MO) | B. Rawling (BRg) |
| D.A.C. McNeil (DAM) | S. Osborn (SO) | S. Read (SR) |
| D. Meadhurst (DMt) | A.J. Osborne (AJO) | D. Rear (DR) |
| G. Merchant (PMt) | G. Osborne (GOe) | B. Reed (BR) |
| G.D.J. Messenbird (GDJM) | G. O'Sea (GO) | E. & P. Reed (EPR) |
| D. Messenger (DMr) | B. Overland (BO) | J. Reid (JR) |
| O. Metcalf (OM) | D. Page (DPe) | A. Reynolds (AR) |
| A. Middleton (AM) | A. Palmer (APr) | P. Rhodes (PRs) |
| R. Middleton (RMn) | J. Palmer (JPr) | J. Richardson (JRn) |
| D. Miller (DM) | S. Papps (SP) | P. Richardson (PRn) |
| I. Miller (IM) | M. Parilla (MP) | M. Riley (MRy) |
| J G Miller (JGM) | N. Parish (NPh) | P. Riley (PRy) |
| K. Miller (KM) | D. Parker (DP) | R. Roberts (CRs) |
| D. Millington (DMi) | M. Parr (MPr) | C. Robinson (CR) |
| D. Mitchell (DMI) | J. Parrish (JPh) | P. Robinson (PRo) |
| D. Monk (DMk) | J. & S. Parry (JSP) | C. Rodger (CRr) |
| A. Monkton (AMn) | M. Parry (MPy) | M. Rose (MRe) |
| D.J. Montier (DJMr) | G. & A. Parsons (GAP) | P Royston (PR) |
| A.V. Moon (AVM) | S. Pash (SPh) | RSPB Croydon Group (RSPBCG) |
| L. Moon (LMn) | K. Payne (KP) | RSPB NW London Group (RSPBNWL) |
| C. Moore (CMo) | R. Payne (RP) | RSPB NW Surrey (RSPBNWS) |
| K. Morgan (KMn) | J. Peacock (JPK) | Ruislip & District NHS (RDNHS) |
| R. Morgan (RMo) | S. Pearce (SPe) | Runnymede Ringing Group (RRG) |
| D.J. Morris (DJM) | A. Pearson (AP) | M. Russell (MRI) |
| D. Morrison (DMn) | R. Pearson (RPon) | T. Ryder (TR) |
| J. Morrison (JMo) | K. Peart (KPt) | |
| R.C. Mortimer (RCM) | D. Peers (DPs) | |
| A. Moss (AMs) | S. & G. Peggs (SGP) | |
| J. Moss (JM)s) | D. Pennington (DPn) | |
| | D. Perkins (DPns) | |
| | J. Perkins (JP) | |

- Rye Meads Ringing Group (RMRG)
 G. Ryland (GR)
 A. Salmon (AS)
 E. Samson (ESn)
 S. Samuels (SSs)
 G. Sawtell (GS)
 J.A. Sayers (JAS)
 M. Schickner (MS)
 J. Schmidt (JSt)
 N. Schorbon (NS)
 S. Scott (SSt)
 M. Searle (MSe)
 V. Searle (VS)
 A.S.M. Self (ASMS)
 P. Sellers (PSs)
 N.P. Senior (NPS)
 Sevenoaks WR Report (SWRR)
 R. Sharp (RS)
 M. Shaw (MSH)
 M. Sheehan (MSn)
 M. Shepherd (MSd)
 B. & C. Sherlock (BCS)
 R. Shinebaum (RSm)
 S. Shippey (SS)
 A. Sidders (ASs)
 F. Simpson (FS)
 M. Sims (MSs)
 R. Sinden (RSn)
 C. Slack (CS)
 T.R. Smeeton (TRS)
 C. Smith (CSH)
 D. Smith (DSH)
 G. Smith (GSh)
 N. Smith (NSh)
 T. Smith (TS)
 W. Smith (WS)
 C. Smout (CSt)
 P.A. Spencer (PAS)
 G. Spicer (GSr)
 M.J. Spicer (MJS)
 D.M. Spittle (DMS)
 B. Spooner (BS)
 S.J. Spooner (SJS)
 D. Spratt (DSt)
 St James's Pk Bird Report (SJPBR)
 C. Stadler (CSr)
 K. Standbridge (KS)
 S. Standbridge (SSe)
 R. Standing (RSg)
 P. Stanford (PS)
 D. Stanley (DSy)
 E. Stannard (ES)
- P.J. Stead (PJS)
 A..J. Stevens (AJSt)
 D. Strachan (DS)
 P.J. Strangeman (PJS)
 P. Stronach (PSh)
 R. Suckling (RSu)
 Surbiton & DBWS (SDBWS)
 A. Tanner (ATr)
 N. Tanner (NT)
 P. Tarrant (PT)
 A. Taylor (AT)
 G. Taylor (GT)
 N. Taylor (NTr)
 B. Tennant (BT)
 J.H. Terry (JHT)
 J. & A. Tester (JAT)
 J.A. Tester (JATr)
 M. Thain (MTn)
 T. Theobald (TT)
 I. Theobald (IT)
 B. Thomas (BTs)
 B.J. Thomas (BJT)
 D. Thomas (DTs)
 J. Thomas (JTs)
 M. Thomas (MTs)
 E. Thomason (ET)
 J. Thompson (JT)
 M. Thompson (MT)
 J. Thornley (JTy)
 P. Thornton (PTn)
 R Todd (RT)
 T.J. Tomkins (TJT)
 P. Tregenza (PTa)
 B. Trevis (BTr)
 J. Trew (JTW)
 D. Tucker (DT)
 B. Turner (BTr)
 C. Turner (CT)
 G. Turner (GTr)
 J. Turner (JTr)
 P. Tweesdale (PTe)
 Tyttenhanger Bird Report (TBR)
 P. Unwin (PU)
 B.M. Utton (BMU)
 H. Vaughan (HV)
 L. Vaughan (LV)
 P. Vaughan (PV)
 L. Veale (LVe)
 A.G Verrall (AGV)
 P.J. Vines (PJV)
 M. Waite (MW)
 P. Waldron (PW)
 M. Waller (MWr)
 S. Ward (SWd)
- S.J. Ward (SJW)
 M. Warden (MWn)
 S. Warrington (SWn)
 D. Waters (DWa)
 R.J. Watts (RJW)
 S. Welch (SW)
 R.D. Weller (RDW)
 H. Wells (HW)
 Welsh Harp Conservation Group (WHCG)
 M. Wemys (MWe)
 P. West (PWt)
 J. Weston (JWn)
 Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)
 D. Wheatcroft (DW)
 B. Whiskin (BW)
 M.S. Whitaker (MSW)
 G. White (GW)
 G.J. White (GJW)
 M. B. White (MBW)
 P.D. White (PDW)
 M. Whitehead (MWd)
 P. Whiteman (PWn)
 H. Whittle (HWe)
 C. Wiels (CW)
 M. Wigg (MWg)
 J.P.P. Wilczur (JPPW)
 C. Wilkinson (CWn)
 D. Willett (DWt)
 I. Williams (IWs)
 M. Williams (MWs)
 N. Willits (NWi)
 D. Wills (DWs)
 A.D. Wilson (ADW)
 C.R. Wilson (CRW)
 M. Wilson (MWi)
 J. Winterbottom (JW)
 N. Wood (NW)
 I. Woodward (IW)
 R. Woodward (RW)
 D. Wooldridge (DWe)
 A. Woollett (AW)
 M. Worby (MWo)
 B.E. Wright (BEW)
 T. Wright (TW)
 M. Wurr (NWr)
 G. Young (GY)
 S. Younger (SY)

Birds of the London Area, 2004

with Additions and Corrections for previous years

A REPORT ON BIRD LIFE WITHIN TWENTY MILES OF ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

The sequence and nomenclature of species in the systematic list of this report is based on the *Birds of Britain: the Complete Checklist* (Mitchell and Vinicombe, 2006) and the relevant EURING number appears beside each species and sub-species heading.

The six counties within the London Area are signified in the report as follows: Essex, Herts = Hertfordshire, Middx = Middlesex, Bucks = Buckinghamshire, Kent, Surrey as well as In Lond = Inner London. North, South, East and West are abbreviated to N,S,E and W. Other abbreviations are:

| | | | | | |
|--------|---|-------------------------|-------|---|------------------------|
| CBC | = | Common Bird Census | OS | = | Open Space |
| CP | = | Country Park | PF | = | Playing Field(s) |
| GC | = | Golf Course | PS | = | Power Station |
| Gdn(s) | = | Garden(s) | QE II | = | Queen Elizabeth II Res |
| GP | = | Gravel Pit(s) | R. | = | River |
| KGV | = | King George V (Essex) | Res | = | Reservoir(s) |
| KGVI | = | King George VI (Middx) | RG | = | Ringling Group |
| LBR | = | London Bird Report | SF/W | = | Sewage Farm/Works |
| LNR | = | Local Nature Reserve | SP | = | Sand Pit |
| NR | = | Nature Reserve | WCB | = | Watercress Beds |
| OPC | = | Outdoor Pursuits Centre | WR | = | Wildfowl Reserve |

Observers' initials in the report are shown against principal records. A full list of observers appears on pages 18 to 22. The abbreviation 'mo' used for some records, indicates 'many observers'. All running totals of rare or unusual birds that are provided in the systematic list refer to occurrences since 1900.

0152 Mute Swan

Cygnus olor

Status: common breeding resident.

Breeding numbers were probably under-recorded for some sectors, but are shown in the following table:

| Essex | Herts | Middx | Bucks | Kent | Surrey | In Lond | Total |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|---------|-------|
| 11 | 30 | 24 | 9 | 3 | 15 | 3 | 95 |

There seems to be a substantial, but probably artificial due to under-recording, decrease in breeding pairs from 1999 onwards, which have previously ranged from 119 to 143 per annum. Sector high counts are given below.

Essex Harrow Lodge Farm, 120 on Jan 25th. Walthamstow Res, 95 on Jan 25th.
 Herts Bury Lake, 80 on Feb 16th. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, 65 on June 20th.
 Stocker's Lake, 73 on Apr 25th. Ware (Lea Navigation), 72 on May 29th.

- Middx Bushy Park, 66 on Oct 21st. Hampton Court Park, 140 on Jan 18th. Staines Res, 93 on Oct 17th.
- Bucks Little Britain Lake, 46 on June 18th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 26 on July 19th.
- Surrey Beverly Park, 50 on Dec 12th. London Wetland Centre, 39 on Apr 26th. R. Thames (Queens Promenade), 146 on May 9th.
- In Lond Kensington Gardens, 97 on Mar 17th. Kensington Gardens (1). Regents Park (1). St James's Park (1).

0153 Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Status: scarce migrant, usually in autumn, and winter visitor.

- Essex Walthamstow Res, three N on Nov 24th (PLt) and 10 on Dec 19th (NWi).
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on Mar 8th (MC).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Oct 12th, from 11.50 to 12.10, when flew off W (BBR). London Wetland Centre, one present from Oct 16th, then moved into the collection on Nov 4th, until its departure on Nov 11th (mo).

0157 Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Status: winter vagrant.

A small East Coast influx of the Tundra form *rossicus* which winters on the near-continent would appear to be responsible for the two records received, though one could not be assigned to subspecies. There has been an above average number of sightings of this species in the last couple of years.

- Herts Rye Meads RSPB, two on Dec 2nd (RSPB, RMRG).
- Middx Staines Res, an adult *rossicus* from Dec 8th-9th (PN, KLP *et al*).

0159 White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers.

Most records submitted were part of the same East Coast influx that produced records of the other scarce species above.

- Essex Fishers Green, 17 on Jan 25th (EBS) and one on Feb 2nd (PJV). Holyfield Hall Farm, nine from Dec 18th to 26th (MCon *et al*), wandering to Holyfield Marsh GP on 18th. Rainham Marshes, seven on Dec 1st (HV). Walthamstow Res, 13 flew N at 08.15 on Jan 17th (DGDL).
- Middx Queen Mary Res, one in the gull roost on Jan 18th (REI).
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, singles from Jan 4th to 25th and from Dec 29th to 31st (SWRR).

- 0161 Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*
 Status: common feral breeding resident, controlled.
- Breeding was significantly under-reported, with only 25 pairs recorded for the whole area. Sector high counts are listed below.
- Essex Grange Waters, 256 on Oct 3rd. Holyfield Marsh GP, 66 on Dec 10th. Mollands Lane GPs, 104 on Jan 3rd. Rainham Marshes, 250 on Dec 9th and 16th.
- Herts Bowyer's GP, 88 on Feb 21st. Lynsters Farm, 80 on Oct 22nd and Nov 12th. Rye Meads RSPB, 50 on Jan 3rd.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, 77 on Dec 31st.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 50 on Jan 17th. Sevenoaks WR, 445 on Sept 26th.
- Surrey Trevereux area, 61 on Feb 28th.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 105 on Dec 23rd. Regent's Park, 70 in Sept. St. James's Park, 139 on Sept 17th.

- 0168 Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*
 Status: formerly scarce migrant and winter visitor greatly increased in recent years.
- Essex Rainham Marshes, three on Oct 31st, two on Nov 7th (DMn), and 25 on Nov 10th (HV).
- Herts Amwell GP, one from Mar 16th-17th (TA, BR). Elstree Aerodrome, one on Mar 21st (CME).
- Middx KGV Res, c25 flew W on Nov 2nd (REI). Staines Moor, one on Nov 1st (KLP). Wood Green, an unringed and wary individual from Mar 22nd-28th (RDA).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one flew N on Dec 22nd.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, two on Nov 7th (DM). Northfleet, 11 flew E on Oct 10th, with another four on Oct 11th (SC). Swanscombe Marsh, one on R. Thames on Nov 21st (DM).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one flew E on Jan 26th (JAb) and 15 flew SW on Sept 22nd (VEB). R.Hogsmill (Riverside OS), three flew W on Oct 9th (PBw).

- 0166 Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*
 Status: very common breeding resident; controlled.
- Breeding was under-recorded, but a minimum of 212 pairs bred in the recording area. High counts are given for the main sites.
- Essex Grange Waters, 194 on Oct 3rd. Harrow Lodge Farm, 214 on Jan 25th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 460 on Aug 29th. Holyfield Marsh GP, 352 on Nov 20th. KGV Res, 266 on Sept 7th. Rainham Marshes, 137 on Jan 25th. Romford, 114 on Jan 25th. Stubbers OPC, 208 on Nov 7th. Walthamstow Res, 837 on June 27th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 150+ on July 13th. Beech Farm GP, up to 150 on Oct 16th. Bowyer's GP, 108 on Jan 24th. Cheshunt GP, 297 on July 17th. Hilfield Park Res, 366 on Sept 25th. Lynsters Lake, 102 on Feb 22nd. Rickmansworth

- Aquadrome, 224 on July 18th. Rye Meads RSPB, 340 on Sept 30th. Stocker's Lake, 256 on Sept 19th. Tyttenhanger GP, 298 on Aug 27th. Verulamium Lake, 307 on Sept 11th.
- Middx Brent Res, 119 on Sept 19th. Hampton Court Park, 250 on Dec 15th. Home Farm (Harmondsworth), 336 feeding on stubble on Sept 2nd. Osterley Park, 344 on Aug 11th. SITA GP, 184 on Sept 10th. Staines Res, 277 on Sept 3rd. Stanwell Moor, 335 on Aug 23rd. Vicarage Farm, 190 on Sept 2nd.
- Bucks Horton Fields, 264 on Aug 27th.
- Kent Danson Park, 182 on Jan 30th. Dartford Marsh, 107 on Sept 19th. Sevenoaks WR, 220 on Sept 25th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 161 on Sept 9th. Hurst Park, 200 on July 1st. London Wetland Centre, 157 on Sept 4th. R.Thames (Barnes-Putney), 137 on Feb 22nd. R.Thames (Hampton), 173 on June 12th. South Norwood CP, 179 on Aug 31st.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, 75 on Jan 30th. Regent's Park, 250 in July. St. James's Park, 118 on Aug 19th.

0170 Egyptian Goose***Alopechen aegyptiacus***

Status: increasing feral breeding resident.

Eight pairs raised a minimum of 49 young, though with numerous seemingly resident pairs at several other sites, some broods may go unreported. A substantial increase this year in both records and breeding pairs may well indicate a genuine population increase and range expansion.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, two on Feb 18th and 21st. Harrow Lodge Farm, two in Jan and Feb. Holyfield Hall Farm, 1–2 on and off all year with three on Jan 17th and Feb 12th. Holyfield Marsh GP, one on three dates. Hooks Marsh, one from Jan 25th to Feb 2nd. KGV Res, two on Oct 16th. Nazeing GP, one on May 10th. Raphaels Park, Romford, pair on Feb 24th. Walthamstow Res, two on four dates. Waterworks NR, two on Aug 12th.
- Herts Helicon GP, one on Feb 22nd. Lynsters Farm, a pair present all year, with eight on Jan 14th. Maple Lodge NR, 2–3 on and off all year. Seventy Acres Lake, one on Feb 14th. Stocker's Lake, two from Jan 25th to Mar 4th. Tyttenhanger GP, two on April 25th.
- Middx Brent Res, one on Feb 19th. Broadwater Lake, two on Feb 12th and Dec 27th, three on Dec 31st. Bushy Park, up to 37; two pairs, one raising three broods. Hampstead Heath, two on Nov 6th was the first site record. Hampton Court Park, max of 55 on Aug 30th, with one brood of eight. KGV Res, one on Apr 23rd. Laleham, one on Apr 17th. Mead Farm, Shepperton, two on Feb 20th. Osterley Park, a pair with five young on Apr 22nd. Penny Lane GP, two on Jan 16th. Queen Mary Res, two on May 13th. Staines Res, three on Aug 19th, five on Oct 5th. Stanwell Moor, two on Aug 23rd.
- Bucks Chalfont Park, two on Mar 27th. Denham Court, two from Jan 15th-31st. Horton Fields, two on Aug 27th. Langley, ten flew over on Oct 3rd. Langley Park, nine on Mar 13th. Wraysbury GP, one on Apr 20th and 24th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 1–4 all year, with eight on Oct 24th and six on Nov 6th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one Mar 13th and Apr 10th, two on Sept 23. Cannon Hill Common, pair with five young on Sept 19th. Elmbridge Leisure Centre, two

on Jan 18th. Godstone, a pair on Sept 7th and Oct 10th. Hersham GP, six on Dec 5th. Holmethorpe SP, two on Oct 10th. Island Barn Res, four records, with seven on Dec 2nd. Kew Gardens, max eight on May 11th, including a pair with five goslings. London Wetland Centre, max three on Apr 17th and May 7th. Richmond Park, max 14 on May 13th. Thorpe Water Park, max four on Jan 18th and Oct 24th. Tooting Common, one on Dec 1st. Townland Pond, Oxted, a pair with one young on Mar 5th. Trevereux area, one on Oct 1st. Walton Res, max of 17 on Nov 27th. Wandsworth Common, two on Oct 3rd, three on Nov 29th and two on Dec 9th. West End Common, two for most of the year. Wimbledon Common, max seven from Sept 1st-5th. Wimbledon Common, nine on Apr 24th.

In Lond Battersea Bridge, one on Mar 30th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, two from May 12th-28th, and on Aug 1st. Regent's Park, one on Mar 24th, then a pair sporadically from Mar 30th-July 22nd and again from Oct 18th into 2005. St. James's Park, one on Feb 17th.

0173 **Shelduck**

Tadorna tadorna

Status: decreasing breeding resident on Lower Thames, regular visitor to major inland waters where it breeds in small numbers.

All records gratefully received, as this species is still a scarce breeder in London. There were eleven breeding pairs reported overall, producing at least 33 young. Potential and proved breeding records are listed below (number of pairs in brackets), along with other high counts.

Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 182 on Jan 25th, 227 on Dec 12th. Cornmill Meadows, up to eight in Apr. Creekmouth, Barking, 119 on Dec 12th. Hall Marsh, a pair on Mar 17th and Apr 7th. KGV Res (1). North Woolwich, 64 on Dec 18th. Rainham Marshes, 129 on Jan 17th. Walthamstow Res, max of eight on Mar 23rd and Aug 1st. West Thurrock, 163 on Feb 13th. Wm Girling Res (1).

Herts Amwell GP (1). Rye Meads RSPB, 21 (2). Tyttenhanger CP, six on Apr 7th (a pair also mated but did not breed).

Middx Hampton Waterworks, three on June 18th. KGVI Res, 13 on Apr 12th, plus three pairs on Apr 25th. Queen Mary Res (2). Staines Res (1), 32 on Nov 29th. Wraysbury Res (1).

Bucks Queen Mother Res, max eight on Apr 21st. Wraysbury GP, six on Apr 29th.

Kent Dartford Marsh, a pair bred nearby. Greenhithe, 12 on Mar 20th. Swanscombe Marsh, 11 on Jan 25th.

Surrey Beddington SF (1), max of 12 on May 26th. Island Barn Res, 12 on Apr 6th. London Wetland Centre, a max of nine on May 21st. QE II Res, max 23 on June 7th. Walton Res, peak of 21 on May 16th.

In Lond Buckingham Palace, one from Apr 15th to May 22nd.

0178 **Mandarin Duck**

Aix galericulata

Status: introduced breeding resident, established and locally common.

Outside the breeding season, the Mandarin gathers on favoured waters, mostly in the northern half of our area. Counts from the main sites were:

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | Connaught Water | 42 | 95 | - | - | - | 14 | 2 | 18 |
| Middx | Bushy Park | 10 | 16 | 18 | 28 | 19 | 10 | 12 | 16 |
| | Grovelands Park | 153 | 99 | 65 | - | - | - | 12 | 15 |
| | Trent Park | 20 | 34 | 30 | - | - | 7 | 17 | - |
| | Whitewebbs Lake | 10 | 16 | - | - | - | - | - | 25 |
| Surrey | Kew Gardens | 3 | 11 | 12 | - | 4 | 18 | 16 | 7 |

Breeding records and sightings for other localities were as follows (annual maxima given for sites with more than 10; number of broods in brackets):

- Essex Epping Forest (15), 116 on Dec 12th in complete survey. Gidea Park (1).
Herts Coopers Green GP (1). Haberdashers Girls' School, Elstree, 11 on July 16th. Panshanger Park (2). Tykeswater Lake (2). Woodhill House (1).
Middx Bentley Priory (1). Bushy Park (1). Grovelands Park (3). Osterley Park, 19 on June 21st and 31 on July 19th (presumably bred). Stanmore Common (1). Trent Park (1).
Bucks Black Park (1).
Surrey R. Mole at Leatherhead (1). Richmond Park (1), ten on Nov 29th and Dec 2nd. Wimbledon Common (1), 14 on Oct 7th.
In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, two on Mar 30th. Regent's Park (1), 14 in Oct. St James's Park, one on Sept 15th, two on Sept 24th and one on Dec 30th.

0179 Eurasian Wigeon

Anas penelope

Status: common winter visitor, with occasional summer records.

Higher counts from the most productive sites were as follows:

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | Cornmill Meadows | 150 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 100 |
| | Rainham Marshes | 832 | 600 | - | - | 24 | 150 | 500 | 764 |
| Herts | Bury Lake/Stocker's Lake | 100 | 20 | 53 | 1 | - | 15 | 30 | 324 |
| | Hilfield Park Res | 4 | - | - | - | 221 | 247 | 15 | 16 |
| Middx | Kempton Park NR/Racecourse | 338 | 195 | 272 | - | 2 | 5 | 168 | 129 |
| | Queen Mary Res | 219 | 55 | 31 | - | - | 4 | - | 105 |
| | Staines Res | 410 | 335 | 231 | - | 158 | 772 | 432 | 267 |
| Bucks | Woodlands Park GP | 155 | 170 | 130 | - | 3 | - | 45 | - |
| Surrey | London Wetland Centre | 107 | 72 | 59 | 16 | 30 | 62 | 95 | 120 |
| | Thorpe Park | 225 | 87 | 53 | - | - | 19 | 119 | 142 |
| | Walton Res | 216 | 312 | 234 | 17 | 8 | 35 | 21 | 273 |

Peak totals above 50 from other localities, and records during May-July, are given below:

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, 72 on Feb 21st. Grange Waters, 73 on Feb 29th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 66 on Nov 15th. Holyfield Marsh GP, 68 on Nov 20th. KGV Res, 87 on Oct 2nd. Mollands Lane GP, 73 on Jan 3rd. Netherhall GP, 72 on Dec 10th. Stubbers OPC, 103 on Dec 26th.
Herts Cheshunt GP, 78 on Nov 13th. Lynsters Farm, 60 on Feb 2nd. Stocker's Farm, 55 on Feb 8th. Seventy Acres Lake, a drake on May 28th-29th.
Middx Stain Hill Res, 61 on Oct 17th. Stanwell Moor, 151 on Mar 12th and 66 on Dec 12th.

- Bucks Wraysbury GP, a female on May 21st.
 Surrey Island Barn Res, 58 on Feb 28th, with three possibly feral drakes on July 25th.
 London Wetland Centre, singles on May 1st and June 16th.
 In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Feb 9th, Nov 7th-8th and Dec 15th-20th.

0182 Gadwall***Anas strepera***

Status: local breeding resident and common winter visitor.

A year of rather low counts overall, though the highest total was a respectable 455 at Staines Res on Oct 17th. There is still a marked concentration of breeding birds in the Herts sector. Counts at the main sites were as follows:

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | Rainham Marshes | 84 | 111 | - | - | - | 45 | 38 | 68 |
| Herts | Amwell GP | 300 | 136 | 51 | 12 | 54 | 85 | 36 | 45 |
| | Cheshunt GP | 33 | 42 | 52 | 10 | 109 | 71 | 91 | 109 |
| | Helicon GP | 120 | 146 | - | - | - | 7 | 51 | 67 |
| | Panshanger Park | 142 | 126 | 62 | 23 | 74 | 54 | 8 | 88 |
| | Rye Meads RSPB | 79 | 95 | 153 | 103 | 70 | 94 | 196 | 196 |
| Middx | Staines Res | 12 | - | 4 | 14 | 396 | 455 | 37 | 44 |
| Surrey | Island Barn Res | 126 | 165 | - | 35 | 24 | 32 | 82 | 69 |

Other notable maxima are listed below, with number of broods in brackets:

- Essex Holyfield Lake (2). KGV Res, 104 on Aug 20th and 200 on Sept 7th.
 Netherhall GP, 129 on Dec 10th.
- Herts Amwell GP (6). Bowyer's GP, 72 on Dec 11th. Hilfield Park Res, 96 on Jan 2nd. Maple Lodge NR (5), 100 on June 22nd and 120 on July 13th.
 Panshanger Park (1). Rye Meads RSPB (32, with at least 215 duckings hatched). Seventy Acres Lake (2). Stocker's Lake, 100 in Jan, Feb and Nov.
 Tyttenhanger GP (1).
- Middx Brent Res (2). SITA GP (2). Stanwell Moor (1). Stoke Newington Res, 160 on Jan 15th.
- Kent Crossness, 88 on Jan 12th. Sevenoaks WR, 75 on Dec 22nd.
- Surrey Beddington SF (1), 85 on Jan 13th and 75 on Feb 26th. London Wetland Centre, 121 on Sept 6th. Molesey Heath (1). Richmond Park, 150 at Pen Ponds on Dec 3rd. Walton Res, 93 on Dec 10th.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 15 on Jan 30th. Regent's Park, up to ten during the year. St James's Park, up to ten during the year.

0184 Common Teal***Anas crecca***

Status: common winter visitor and rare breeder.

No proved breeding this year, though a pair summered at Rainham Marshes, a regular breeding site for Teal. As usual, there were widely scattered reports of very small numbers during the summer.

There were some big counts again this year from a few localities with optimum feeding, though many regular areas held rather low numbers. Monthly maxima at the main regular localities were as follows:

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | Barking Bay/Marsh | 987 | 903 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 750 |
| | Rainham Marshes | 2467 | 1062 | - | - | - | - | 480 | 500 | 107 |
| | West Thurrock | 150 | 245 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 186 |
| Herts | Rye Meads RSPB | 136 | 110 | 70 | 13 | 14 | 43 | 93 | 60 | 200 |
| Middx | Staines Res | 128 | 4 | 12 | 29 | 113 | 192 | 190 | 290 | 766 |
| Kent | Sevenoaks WR | 99 | 81 | 62 | 20 | 24 | 70 | 117 | 185 | 160 |
| Surrey | Beddington SF | 652 | 350 | 175 | 80 | 30 | 250 | 375 | 504 | 407 |
| | Wetland Centre | 359 | 65 | 246 | 39 | 43 | 151 | 175 | 252 | 251 |
| | Walton Res | 100 | 42 | 37 | 19 | 7 | 33 | 47 | 63 | 128 |

Other notable counts at less regularly censused sites were:

- Essex Connaught Water, 128 on Feb 22nd. Creekmouth (Barking), 474 on Jan 25th. KGV Res, 249 on Sept 7th. North Woolwich, 180 on Jan 27th and 117 on Dec 15th.
- Herts Maple Lodge NR, 100 on Feb 19th and Mar 18th.
- Kent Thames Barrier, 120 on Sept 18th.
- Surrey R. Thames (Barnes-Putney), 221 on Jan 25th and 321 on Feb 22nd.
- In Lond Regent's Park, three from Jan 28th to Mar 12th, then singles on Oct 14th and from Dec 13th to the year-end.

0184.1 Green-winged Teal

Anas carolinensis

Status: rare vagrant.

- Surrey London Wetland Centre, a drake on Dec 5th (SF *et al*).

The 10th for the London Area, seen by many observers during its one-day stay. The first record in London was at the same site (then Barn Elms Res) in April 1971.

0186 Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Status: very common and widespread breeding resident, with numbers increasing in winter.

An abundant species of our parks as well as our reservoirs and marshes, and in fact this year the highest numbers—500—were seen at Panshanger Park. Twelve localities recorded counts of 200 or more, and (as last year) these included some riverbank transects in Surrey, which also produced some notable breeding concentrations. At Maple Lodge NR (Herts), a female was seen on a nest in the hollow trunk of an Alder.

Larger counts and notable breeding concentrations (broods or territories in brackets) were:

- Essex Harrow Lodge Farm, 151 on Feb 22nd. KGV Res, 175 on Aug 20th. Rainham Marshes, 244 on Jan 25th. Valentine's Park, Ilford (15). Walthamstow Res (10). Weald Park, 200 on Nov 3rd. West Thurrock, 170 on Jan 17th.
- Herts Amwell GP (10), 146 on Feb 21st. Seventy Acres Lake (11). Bowyer's GP, 115 on Aug 21st. Cheshunt GP, 313 on July 17th. Maple Lodge NR (17). North Mymms Park, 190 on Aug 30th. Panshanger Park, 500 in July, Aug and

Sept. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, 137 on Oct 17th. Rye Meads RSPB (30 broods, with at least 197 ducklings hatched). Stocker's Lake, 150 on Feb 1st. Tyttenhanger GP, 180 in Sept.

Middx Hampstead and Highgate Ponds, 205 on Oct 17th. Home Farm, Harmondsworth, 120 on Aug 11th. Ruislip Lido, 224 on Aug 23rd. Staines Res, 382 on Oct 17th.

Bucks No reports of more than 30 at any one site: Wraysbury GP (8).

Kent Danson Park, 134 on Aug 28th. Sevenoaks WR, 116 on Dec 5th.

Surrey Beddington SF (15), 112 on Jan 20th. Ewell, 128 on Jan 11th. London Wetland Centre (21), 334 on Jan 5th. R. Mole, Leatherhead (35). R. Thames, Barnes-Putney, 377 on Feb 22nd. R. Wandle, Butter Hill to Morden Hall Park (86). R. Wandle, Carshalton to Wandle mouth, 340 on Dec 29th.

In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 26 ducklings seen; 226 birds on Feb 18th. Regent's Park, 360 in Jan. R. Thames, Westminster, 70 on Sept 18th. St James's Park, 189 on May 26th.

0189 Pintail

Anas acuta

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, very occasional summer records, declining.

Small numbers of escaped Pintail are present in our area, and the summary below tries to exclude all records of such birds. A wild Pintail is definitely a 'notebook bird' in London; Rainham is reliable for them in winter, but at other sites they are usually irregular at best. In addition to Rainham, the London Wetland Centre and Staines Res recorded double-figure tallies in 2004.

Essex Bow Creek, singles on Jan 17th and Nov 3rd. Cornmill Meadows, one on Jan 18th. Creekmouth (Barking), one on Feb 24th. Holyfield Hall Farm, three on Feb 7th and two on 8th. KGV Res, one on Jan 2nd and two on Oct 2nd. Rainham Marshes, monthly maxima were 36 on Jan 3rd, 26 on Feb 28th, two on Sept 29th, six on Oct 30th, 15 on Nov 29th and 19 on Dec 29th.

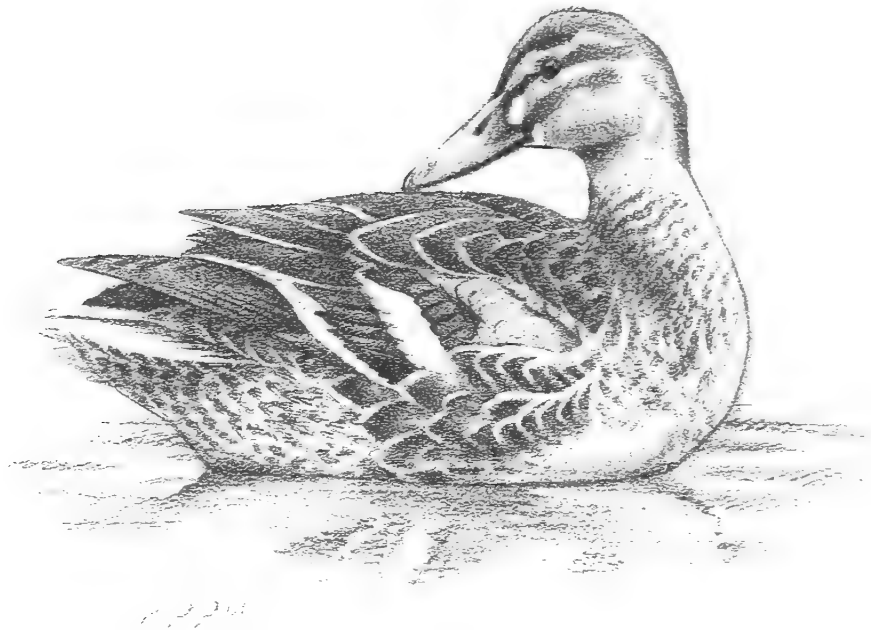
Herts Stocker's Lake, one on Jan 15th. Tyttenhanger GP, in Oct up to four on eight dates from 1st-31st, and one on Nov 7th.

Middx Brent Res, one on Apr 11th. Broadwater Lake, two on Feb 7th. East India Dock Basin, one on Jan 28th. Kempton NR, one on Apr 6th. KGV Res, four on Jan 4th, three on Jan 18th and one on Nov 13th. Staines Res, two on Jan 8th, one on Jan 13th and one on Apr 16th; in autumn from Sept 5th, with up to 12 in Sept and Oct, up to four in Nov and nine in Dec. Stanwell Moor, singles on Mar 15th, 21st and 27th-31st, and on Apr 28th.

Bucks Queen Mother Res, six on Jan 2nd, four flew high NE on Jan 4th and one flew W on Nov 8th.

Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on Apr 24th.

Surrey London Wetland Centre, 20 flew very high W on Oct 3rd. Walton Res, singles on Feb 29th and Apr 6th-7th (observer commented: "worst year ever here.")

**0191 Garganey*****Anas querquedula***

Status: scarce passage migrant, rare in winter, very occasional breeder.

A reasonable year for this attractive migrant, with approximately 17 in spring (Mar 7th to May 28th) and 23 in autumn (July 7th to Oct 5th). Sixteen sites recorded Garganey, with up to nine seen among the many other dabbling ducks at Staines in the autumn. No suggestion of breeding this year.

- Essex Connaught Water, a drake from Mar 7th-13th. Dagenham Chase, a pair on Apr 16th. Holyfield Hall Farm, an immature on Aug 10th. KGV Res, one from July 7th-18th, two on 28th, five on 29th and 31st, two on Aug 1st and 8th, one on 17th and two on 20th. Rainham Marshes, a drake from May 1st-14th. Walthamstow Res, a pair from Mar 28th to Apr 4th. Wm Girling Res, a pair on Mar 31st.
- Herts Amwell GP, a female from Aug 4th to Sept 11th. Maple Lodge NR, two drakes on May 28th. Rye Meads RSPB, singles on May 7th and July 31st.
- Middx Brent Res, one on Oct 2nd-3rd. Ponders End Lake, two drakes on Mar 27th and four on Aug 1st. Staines Res, one from July 26th to Aug 3rd, eight on Aug 4th and regular sightings of 1-9 for the rest of Aug; in Sept, singles on seven dates from 1st-29th, with two on 3rd; the last single on Oct 5th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, a pair on Mar 9th. London Wetland Centre, one on Aug 27th. QE II Res, a drake on May 18th. Watermeads, Mitcham, a drake on Apr 2nd.

0194 Shoveler***Anas clypeata***

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor, scarce breeder, with birds often recorded in summer.

Two broods in the Herts sector were the only ones seen this year. Monthly maxima at the main regularly surveyed sites were:

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | Rainham Marshes | 117 | 167 | 168 | - | - | - | 103 | 161 | 140 |
| Herts | Cheshunt GP | 31 | 102 | 91 | - | - | 10 | 24 | 31 | 15 |
| | Hilfield Park Res | 9 | 15 | 16 | 23 | 11 | 66 | 122 | 83 | 84 |
| | Stocker's Lake | 30 | 110 | 150 | 5 | - | 4 | 10 | 60 | 80 |
| Middx | Brent Res | 20 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 129 | 111 | 50 | 15 | 13 |
| | Staines Res | 7 | 35 | 137 | 50 | 102 | 310 | 256 | 277 | 88 |
| | Stain Hill Res | 76 | 113 | 66 | - | 12 | 20 | 44 | 81 | 134 |
| Surrey | London Wetland Centre | 123 | 153 | 145 | 37 | 84 | 189 | 62 | 65 | 102 |
| | Walton Res | 17 | 12 | 42 | 36 | 38 | 178 | 158 | 31 | 89 |

Other high counts were as follows (number of broods in brackets):

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, 81 on Feb 21st. Dagenham Chase, 76 on Feb 22nd. KGV Res, 134 on Aug 20th. Walthamstow Res, 265 on Sept 19th.
- Herts Rye Meads RSPB (1), 63 on Oct 16th. Seventy Acres Lake (1).
- Middx Kempton NR, 66 on Mar 21st. KGV Res, 54 on Jan 25th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 58 on Oct 15th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 87 on Nov 4th.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 29 on Feb 29th. Regent's Park, max of about 20 during the winter months.

0196 Red-crested Pochard

Netta rufina

Status: rare autumn and winter visitor, with its true status clouded by escapes.

As ever, it is impossible to decide how many records relate to escaped birds. In order to ascertain whether there is a self-sustaining population in London, all records—even of obvious escapes—should be submitted. All birds reported as escaped, leucistic, tame, very long-staying or from Inner London parks are excluded from this account. Further records may be found in Appendix 1. All other records are given below.

- Essex Grange Waters, a female on Jan 18th. KGV Res, three on Aug 17th and two on Oct 2nd.
- Herts Bowyer's GP, a pair on Nov 4th-5th. Bury Lake, five on Dec 12th. Helicon GP, a pair on Jan 25th. Hilfield Park Res, a female on Feb 7th. Stocker's Lake, 1-2 drakes from Jan 11th to Feb 1st and up to four in Nov-Dec. Tyttenhanger GP, a female on Nov 13th.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, three on Oct 22nd and one on Oct 29th. Broadwater Lake, a drake on Nov 28th. Staines Res, singles on Oct 5th and 30th and a pair on Nov 7th. Stanwell Moor, one on Oct 7th and three on Oct 16th. Stoke Newington Res, one on Sept 19th.
- Bucks Horton GP, singles on Nov 25th and Dec 18th. Wraysbury GP, a drake on Jan 3rd, three on Nov 4th and a first-winter drake on Dec 21st.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, three on Nov 9th. Thorpe Water Park, two from Jan 1st-7th. Walton Res, single drakes on Aug 17th, Sept 8th and Oct 1st.

0198 Pochard***Aythya ferina***

Status: common winter visitor and migrant, scarce breeder.

A total of 46 pairs was reported yielding 30 broods. In the winter months three sites had over 200 birds but there were no really large flocks. The following table shows monthly maxima for all sites where there were over 100 birds at least once. Below this all breeding records (numbers of broods in brackets) are given along with Inner London records.

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | Walthamstow Res | - | - | 102 | - | - | - | - | 75 | 117 |
| Herts | Bowyer's GP | - | 9 | 8 | - | 14 | 124 | 43 | 61 | 64 |
| | Hilfield Park Res | 71 | 32 | 28 | 191 | 175 | 29 | 59 | 32 | 57 |
| | Stocker's Lake | 146 | 10 | 54 | 6 | - | 13 | 70 | 139 | 162 |
| Middx | Brent Res | 134 | 75 | 33 | - | 10 | - | 25 | - | 105 |
| | Broadwater Lake | - | - | - | - | - | - | 210 | - | 205 |
| | Staines Res | 24 | 7 | - | 10 | 15 | 15 | 155 | 197 | 149 |
| Berks | Wraysbury GP | - | - | 200 | 17 | 38 | - | - | - | - |
| Surrey | Thorpe Water Pk | 211 | 76 | - | - | - | - | 224 | 141 | 147 |

Essex Purfleet Chalk Pits (1). Valentines Park, Ilford (2). Hooks Marsh Lake (1). Walthamstow Res (6).

Herts Amwell GP (1). Rye Meads RSPB (2). Seventy Acres Lake (2).

Middx Brent Res (2). Finsbury Park (1). New River, Enfield (1). Pymmes Park (3). Town Park, Enfield (3).

Surrey London Wetland Centre (1).

In Lond Buckingham Palace, max of five on April 22nd. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2), 27 on Mar 27th and July 28th, 22 on Nov 4th. Regent's Park, max of 263 on unspecified date. St. James's Park (2), 79 on May 26th. Tate Modern, two pairs flew upriver on May 24th.

0203 Tufted Duck***Aythya fuligula***

Status: regular resident breeder and common winter visitor.

Records were received from 124 sites, 34 sites reported broods, of which there were a total of 159. The highest figures came from Rye Meads RSPB and the London Wetland Centre which both had 28 broods each.

The following table shows the largest flocks outside the breeding season, and gives peak monthly counts from sites holding at least 500 birds at some time. Below this are shown the largest breeding concentrations (number of broods in brackets) and Inner London records of note. Moulting flocks at Staines and Wm Girling Res were very much in evidence, reaching their peak in July and August.

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | KGV Res | - | - | - | - | 174 | 644 | 134 | - | - |
| | Wm Girling Res | - | - | - | 523 | 743 | - | - | - | - |
| | Walthamstow Res | - | - | - | - | 2939 | - | - | - | - |
| Middx | KGVI Res | 49 | 2 | 10 | 218 | 666 | 376 | 578 | 188 | - |
| | Staines Res | 72 | 15 | 35 | 792 | 754 | 741 | 750 | 53 | 45 |
| Surrey | Thorpe Water Park | 581 | 550 | 49 | - | - | - | 425 | 469 | 358 |
| | Walton Res | 224 | 202 | 81 | 456 | 618 | 164 | 325 | 368 | 419 |

- Essex Belhus Woods CP (7). Hooks Marsh Lake (5). Valentines Park, Ilford (10).
 Herts Amwell GP (5). Cheshunt GP (6). Maple Lodge NR (10). Rye Meads RSPB (28), at least 167 young. Seventy Acres Lake (8).
 Middx Ponders End Lake (5).
 Surrey London Wetland Centre (28).
 In Lond Battersea Bridge, 2 on June 1st. Buckingham Palace (2). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (4), 144 on Mar 17th, 34 young seen on June 1st. Little Venice (1). Regent's Park, max of 301. St. James's Park, 207 on Feb 18th.

- 0204 Scaup** *Aythya marila*
 Status: regular but uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional large influxes during cold weather.
- Essex Fairlop Waters, a 1st-winter female on Nov 28th joined by a second on Dec 5th and by an immature male on Dec 11th, until Dec 28th. (AAB *et al*). KGV Res, one on Jan 17th, two from Jan 18th to Mar 13th (PJV, RW). Rainham Marshes, one on Jan 2nd (HV).
 Middx East India Dock Basin, one from Jan 24th to Feb 28th (BG, SHH). Staines Res, one on Jan 11th was probably the one present from Nov 2003 (REI).
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, an immature male on Nov 18th (CDRH).
 Surrey Island Barn Res, one on Feb 1st (DMH) and one from Nov 8th to Dec 30th. (SJS). QE II Res, one on Nov 12th (SJS). Thorpe Water Park, singles on Jan 25th (BG) and Nov 21st (RSPBNWS). Walton Res. one on Feb 1st (relocated from Island Barn Res) (DMH, SJS), one on Mar 1st, two on Nov 1st and five on Nov 7th (DMH).
 In Lond Regent's Park, the long-staying drake present all year for its eighth year (ARD, DJ).

2003 Correction

- 0205 Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis*
 Status: very rare vagrant
- In Lond Regent's Park, a 1st-winter drake was present on Mar 3rd-9th, 16th-22nd and 26th to Apr 8th (ARD, DJ *et al*).

- 0212 Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*
 Status: scarce but annual visitor.
- Essex Grange Waters, a female on Dec 26th-27th (DM). Stubbers OPC, an imm male from Nov 27th to Dec 31st (ELBF).
 Surrey Island Barn Res, the female/imm first found in Nov 2003 was present from Jan 1st to Mar 3rd (BG *et al*); also at QE II Res on Feb 28th and Apr 4th (DMH), and Walton Res on Jan 18th, Feb 1st and from Apr 17th to Apr 22nd (BG, DMH, SJS).

0213 Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Status: passage migrant and occasional winter visitor, never numerous.

Essex KGV Res, six on Mar 29th (PJV). Rainham Marsh, one on Oct 11th (RSPB). R. Thames at Tilbury, seven on Oct 11th (HV). Walthamstow Res, two on Mar 17th (LC). Wm Girling Res, three on July 16th and singles on Sep 24th and Nov 9th (PJV).

Herts Amwell GP, one on Nov 7th (TA). Coopers Green GP, one on Apr 23rd (WAH). Hilfield Park Res, three on Mar 27th (HRBR).

Middx Brent Res, one on Mar 20th (ASMS), three from Apr 18th to 24th, with a pair remaining until May 2nd (JJ, AGV *et al*). KGV Res, one from Apr 3rd to 15th (PN *et al*), one on Aug 18th (ADW), one from Nov 2nd to 25th, joined by two others between Nov 9th and 17th (PN, AM). Staines Res, 12 on Mar 29th, one on 30th, then 11 until Apr 1st. (KLP *et al*), one from Apr 16th to 25th (KLP *et al*), one on July 18th (APG) and five on Oct 16th (REI *et al*).

Bucks Queen Mother Res, two on Mar 29th, 90 on Nov 8th and two on 9th (CDRH).

Kent R. Thames, at Dartford Marsh, one on Mar 13th (DM).

Surrey London Wetland Centre, one from Nov 19th to 25th (RK). QE II Res, one on Aug 14th, (also at Walton Res) and one on Oct 11th (DMH).

The flock of 90 birds at Queen Mother Res on Nov 8th is the largest recorded in London.

0218 Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Status: common winter visitor, occasional summer record

The largest counts in the winter months are shown in the following table, which gives monthly maxima for all sites with 20 or more birds. Details of birds seen during the summer months are given below this.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Oct | Nov | Dec | |
|--------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Essex | KGV Res | - | 60 | 40 | - | - | - | - |
| | Walthamstow Res | 24 | 17 | 15 | - | - | 4 | 18 |
| Herts | Amwell GP | 22 | 15 | 16 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 11 |
| Middx | Broadwater Lake | 5 | 15 | - | 20 | - | 6 | 7 |
| | KGV Res | 18 | 9 | 17 | 17 | 3 | 18 | 28 |
| | Staines Res | 46 | 36 | 57 | 8 | 12 | 45 | 32 |
| Bucks | Wraysbury GP | 35 | 52 | 70 | 12 | 3 | 25 | 5 |
| Surrey | Walton Res | 13 | 32 | 26 | 20 | 6 | 13 | 12 |

Essex Wm Girling Res, an injured drake throughout June was joined by a female on July 3rd.

Middx Staines Res, a female from July 9th into Oct.

0220 Smew *Mergus albellus*

Status: winter visitor in highly variable numbers.

Seven sites reported flocks of more than ten birds in 2004, only one of which exceeded 20. Numbers declined in February until only two places held more than ten birds during March. The last reported was on Mar 22nd. First

returning birds were seen on Nov 14th. The largest counts from each county are given below.

- Essex Belhus Woods CP, ten between Jan 3rd and Feb 21st, Grange Waters, seven on Dec 26th. Holyfield Hall GP, ten on Jan 11th. Hooks Marsh, 14 on Feb 15th.
- Herts Amwell GP, eight on Jan 10th. Cheshunt GP, ten on Jan 18th and 14 on Feb 21st. Seventy Acres Lake, 14 on Jan 30th and 11 on Mar 6th. Stocker's Lake, ten on Feb 12th and Mar 5th.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, nine on Jan 1st. Broadwater Lake, two on Mar 22nd. Ruislip Lido, two on Dec 12th. Staines Res, two in Dec.
- Bucks Horton GP, two on Jan 4th. Wraysbury GP, up to 17 in Feb and nine on Mar 2nd.
- Surrey Penton Hook Marina, nine on Dec 28th. Thorpe Water Park, 24 on Jan 17th, and 18 on Feb 15th.

0221 Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

A quiet year for this species, with reports from ten sites. Only one flock had more than five birds. All records are given.

- Essex Fairlop Waters, one on Mar 31st (EBS). KGV Res, one from Jan 2nd to Mar 16th (also seen at Wm Girling Res), four on Mar 30th and two on Apr 10th (PJV *et al*). Rainham Marshes, one on Oct 12th (RSPB). Wm Girling Res, one from Jan 19th to Mar 16th (RMC, PJV) and seven on Mar 29th (PJV).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, on R. Thames, two on Oct 30th (PR).
- Middx KGV Res, one on Dec 1st (PN). Staines Res, one on Apr 1st-2nd (KLP *et al*).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one on Dec 9th (CDRH).
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on Oct 20th (BBR). QE II Res, one on Apr 2nd (SJS), two on May 1st (DMH, SJS) and one on Dec 9th (DMH). Walton Res, one on Nov 23rd (SJS).

0223 Goosander

Mergus merganser

Status: regular winter visitor, very rare in summer.

Peak counts during the winter months are given in the following table for the most regular sites; other notable flocks are given below. There were no summer records and none from Inner London.

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Nov | Dec |
|--------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | Holyfield Hall Farm | 10 | 2 | 5 | - | 2 | 2 |
| | Nazeing GP | 22 | 14 | 7 | - | 5 | 13 |
| | Wm Girling Res | 19 | 13 | 8 | 1 | 8 | - |
| Herts | Stocker's Lake | 14 | 17 | 5 | - | 4 | 11 |
| Middx | Broadwater Lake | 2 | 3 | 3 | - | - | 3 |
| Bucks | Wraysbury GP | 9 | 12 | 6 | - | 11 | 12 |
| Surrey | Island Barn Res | 2 | 2 | 4 | - | 4 | 1 |
| | QE II Res | 5 | 7 | 10 | - | 2 | 5 |
| | Walton Res | 35 | 33 | 13 | 2 | 11 | 22 |

- Essex Nazeing Meads, 30 on Jan 4th and 34 on 9th. Turnford Marsh GP, 16 on Feb 13th and 17 on Dec 11th.
- Bucks River Colne at Denham, eight on Jan 22nd.
- Middx Colne Valley at Savehay Lake, 30 on Dec 26th. Trent Park, ten on Dec 23rd. Wraysbury Res, 25 on Jan 17th.

0225 Ruddy Duck***Oxyura jamaicensis***

Status: widespread winter visitor of non-native origin, localised breeder.

Peak counts outside the breeding season are shown in the following table, which gives monthly maxima for those sites with 50 or more birds.

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | KGV Res | 352 | 348 | 204 | 52 | - | - | - | - |
| | Walthamstow Res | 88 | 118 | 90 | 18 | - | 36 | 50 | 72 |
| Herts | Hilfield Park Res | 169 | 187 | 167 | 34 | 87 | 127 | 120 | 165 |
| Middx | Brent Res | 18 | 4 | 30 | 23 | 133 | 147 | 25 | 33 |
| | Broadwater Lake | 75 | 20 | - | 13 | - | 38 | 93 | 128 |
| | Staines Res | 548 | 352 | 396 | 77 | 330 | 701 | 770 | 683 |
| Surrey | London Wetland Centre | 50 | 32 | 84 | 36 | 48 | 39 | 84 | 86 |

Numbers at KGV Res also increased, in line with the overall pattern. Some other wintering sites recorded fewer than previously (e.g. Walton Res) which suggests a redistribution of wintering birds, with Staines attracting more birds than all other sites combined. The London Wetland Centre continues to develop as a stronghold for this duck, with ten breeding pairs. Notable Inner London flocks are given below.

- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 22 on Nov 26th. Regent's Park, max of 25 in Jan and Feb. St James's Park, 11 on May 26th, eight on Oct 8th and six on Nov 10th and Dec 12th.

0358 Red-legged Partridge***Alectoris rufa***

Status: breeding resident, declining.

Widely reported, although mostly to the east and north of the Area. There were only two instances of successful breeding this year. The status of this species in London is greatly obscured by the regular release of captive-bred birds, especially at Tyttenhanger where up to 200 birds have been released in recent years. All records in the breeding season are given along with notable counts at other times of year.

- Essex No breeding season records. Peak counts were: Grange Waters, up to 32 in Oct and 23 in Dec, Navestock, 13 in Jan, Sewardstone, 13 in Jan.
- Herts Present in the breeding season at: Beech Farm GP, Coopers Green GP, North Pymms Park area, Rye Meads RSPB, Tyttenhanger GP and Woodside, although the only evidence of breeding success was at Tyttenhanger. Peak counts at other times of the year were: Beech Farm GP, 18 in Oct, Tyttenhanger GP, 60 in Aug, 160 in Oct and 55 in Dec.

- Middx The only breeding season records were: Parkside Farm, two in Apr and May, Vicarage Farm, 1–2 from Apr to June. The peak count in the sector was seven at Ferny Hill Farm. The only records on the west side of London were singles at Staines and KGVI Res and two at Yeading Brook Meadows.
- Bucks Kingcup Farm, one on Mar 31st was the only record.
- Kent No records received from this sector.
- Surrey The only breeding season records were: High Breach, two in Mar and Apr. Langley Vale, two in July. Ridlands, Moorhouse, one pair bred. The highest count in this region was 10 on Feb 7th at Trevereaux.

0367 Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*
 Status: breeding resident, declining.

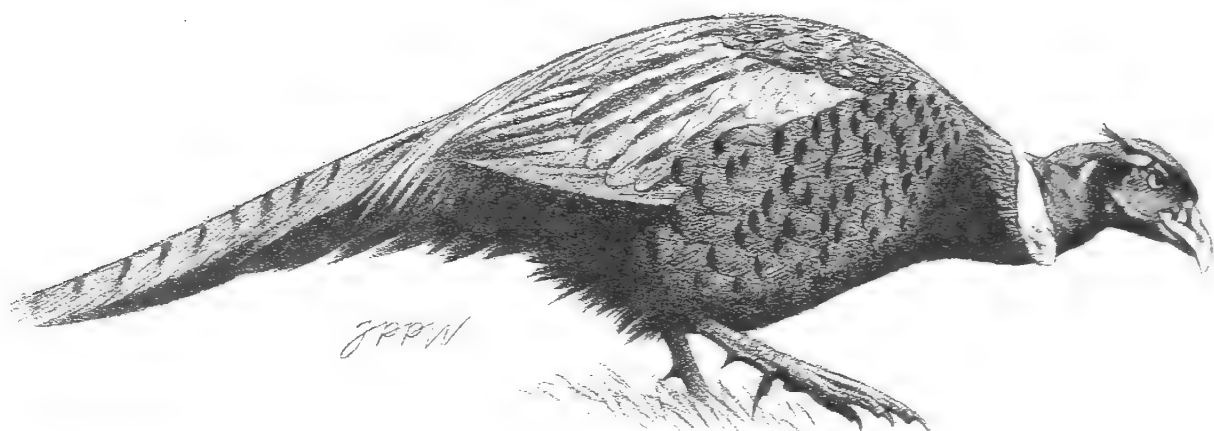
There were only records from three sites in the Essex sector and a scattering of records from Herts, with only one breeding record. The continuing demise of this traditional farmland bird could not be better evidenced than was the case this year. At the present rate of progress, sadly, it seems that this will cease to be a London bird in the foreseeable future. All records are given.

- Essex Bulphan Fen, 14 on Jan 5th and one on Mar 9th. Lambourne, two on Feb 9th. Rainham Marsh, one on Nov 14th.
- Herts Beech Farm GP, 1–3 from Mar to Aug, five in Sept, one in Nov and eight in Dec. Birchall, one in June and three in Aug. Chiswell Green, one on Apr 4th. Coopers Green GP, one on June 6th and eight on Aug 21st. Hatfield Aerodrome, two on Nov 6th. Jersey Farm, two in Apr and May. London Colney, one pair bred raising four young. North Mymms Park, one on Dec 10th. Panshanger Aerodrome, 10 on Nov 4th. Smallford, one on May 25th. Frogmore GP, two on Mar 31st.

0394 Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*
 Status: common breeding resident.

Undoubtedly under-reported, so consequently it is difficult to assess its true status or whether it has declined or increased. Purely in terms of numbers there were more breeding pairs than in 2003, but fewer than 2002 and 2001. It is also difficult to determine how much the population is augmented annually by captive-bred stock. All breeding records are shown below, the number of pairs or territorial males (in brackets), as well as the highest counts for most sites during the year.

- Essex Hall Marsh (2). Rainham Marshes (21), 68 on Nov 14th. Waltham Abbey Woods (1). Walthamstow Res, one on Nov 17th.
- Herts Amwell GP (3). Beech Farm GP, 12 in Oct. Bowyers GP (2). Brookmans Park, 12 in Feb and Mar. Broxbourne GP (1). Cheshunt GP (3). Chess Valley, seven in Apr. Essendon, 19 in Apr. Hilfield Park Res, up to nine during the year. Lower Woodside (1). North Mymms Park, 30 in Mar. Rye Meads RSPB (1), 35 in Jan. Waltham Cross Marsh (3). Tyttenhanger GP, 10 males in Apr.



- Middx Denham Quarry Lake, one in May. Hounslow Heath, three in Dec. Staines Moor (1). Uxbridge, one in June.
- Bucks Gossams Wood and Kingcup Farm, singles in Mar. New Denham, 10 on July 2nd.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, four in Mar. Lullingstone Park, two in June. Sevenoaks WR, maxima of 10 on Jan 30th and Dec 8th.
- Surrey Beddington SF (1), up to four in Jan. Bletchingly, two in Apr. Chasemoor Farm, six in Mar. Chelsham, seven in Apr. Epsom Common, two in May. Godstone Bay Pond, two in Apr. Headley Heath, 11 in May. Horton CP, three in May. Island Barn Res (1), seven in Sept. Molesey Heath (3). R. Mole, Leatherhead (2). Rushett Farm, three in Aug. The Ledges, Esher (1). West End Common, Esher, present in breeding season.

- 0002 Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*
 Status: rare winter visitor and occasional migrant.
- Surrey QE II Res, one on Dec 9th (DMH).
- 0004 Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*
 Status: scarce winter visitor and occasional migrant, often after hard weather.
- Essex Essex Arena GP, one from 2003 to Jan 13th (mo).
- Diver sp** *Gavia sp*
- Middx KGVI Res, one on Nov 2nd (REI).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Feb 6th (MJG).

0007 Little Grebe***Tachybaptus ruficollis***

Status: widespread breeding resident on most suitable waters, also passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numbers in brackets indicate reported breeding pairs. Counts of more than 20 are given (max for site) or the highest count in the sector if less than 20.

- Essex Dagenham Chase NR (6). Purfleet Chalk Pits (7), 49 on Dec 31st. Rainham Marshes (19). Walthamstow Res (1).
- Herts Amwell GP (1+), 29 on Sept 12th. Beech Farm GP (up to 3). Cheshunt GP (4+). Coopers Green GP (4). Hilfield Park Res (6), 56 on Oct 16th. Maple Lodge NR (3). Panshanger Park, 32 on Aug 22nd. R.Chess, Rickmansworth (1). Rye Meads RSPB (17), 63 on Sept 18th. The Grove, Watford (1).
- Middx Brent Res (1–2). Finsbury Park (1). Grovelands Park (1). Kempton NR (1). Park Farm, Enfield (1). Parkside Farm/Res, Enfield (1). Ponders End Lake (4). Poyle Quarry (1). Princes Ski Club (2), 25 on Feb 21st. Pymmes Park (1). Saxon Lake, Harmondsworth CP (1). Stain Hill Res, 26 on Aug 22nd. Stanwell Moor (1). Swan Lake, Harmondsworth (5)
- Bucks Chalfont Park (1+), 11 on Sept 1st. Denham Court (1). Upton Lake (1).
- Kent Danson Park (2). Dartford Marsh (1). Ruxley GP, 19 on Jan 25th. Swanscombe Marsh (5).
- Surrey Beddington SF, 24 on Aug 22nd. Bookham Common (1). Hogsmill SF (3). London Wetland Centre (8 pairs, 6 broods), 26 on Sept 18th. Long Ditton Filter Beds (3). Molesey GP (1). R.Wandle (Butter Hill-Morden Hall Park) (2). Trevereux area (2). Waddon Ponds (2). Walton Res (7). West End Common (1).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (1 pair, 2 broods). Regent's Park (4 pairs, 1 brood). St. James's Park (1)

0009 Great Crested Grebe***Podiceps cristatus***

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Breeding localities are shown with numbers of pairs in brackets unless otherwise stated. Counts of more than 50 are also shown.

- Essex Dagenham (2). Dagenham Chase NR (4 broods). Holyfield Hall Farm (1). Hooks Marsh (3). Nazeing GP, 79 on Feb 22nd. Walthamstow Res (10 broods).
- Herts Aldenham Res (3–4 broods). Amwell GP (3). Cheshunt GP (16+), one juv seen on Seventy Acres Lake on Feb 23rd. Helicon GP (1). Hilfield Park Res (6 broods), 47 on Aug 22nd. Lynsters Lake (1). Maple Lodge NR (1). Panshanger Park (1). Pynesfield GP (1). Rye Meads RSPB (2). Stanborough Lakes (1+). Stansted Abbots GP (1). Tyttenhanger GP (2). Verulamium Lake (2).
- Middx Bedfont Lakes/GP (1). Brent Res (14), 43 on Nov 27th. Brentford, Thames Lock (1). Broadwater Lake, 121 on Oct 25th. Bushy Park (1). Edgware, Canons Lake (1). Ponders End Lake (1). Poyle Quarry (1). Queen Mary Res, max of 437 on Jan 25th and 262 on Dec 12th. Ruislip Lido (1). Saxons Lake, Harmondsworth CP (1). Staines Res, 67 on May 29th. Stanwell Moor (1). Wood Green (1). Wraysbury Res, 115 on Sept 25th.

- Bucks Colnbrook West Lake (1). Farlowes Lake (3). Orlitts Lakes (1). Queen Mother Res (1+), 90 on Aug 14th. Wraysbury GP (3).
- Kent Danson Park (2). Lullingstone Lake/Park (1). Ruxley GP (2). Sevenoaks WR (1+).
- Surrey Barwell Court Farm (1). Beddington SF (1). Epsom Common (1). Gatton Park/Lake (4). Godstone SP (2). London Wetland Centre (5). Molesey Heath (1). Pen Ponds, Richmond Park (1). QE II Res, 95 on Mar 10th. R. Thames, Kingston (1). R. Thames, Queens Promenade (1). R. Thames, Ravens Ait (1). R. Thames, Twickenham (1). South Norwood Lake (1). Thorpe Water Park, 54 on Oct 24th.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (3). Regent's Park (4 pairs, no young fledged). St. James's Park (1 failed).

0010 Red-necked Grebe***Podiceps grisegena***

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

- Essex Dagenham Chase NR, one on May 21st. Fairlop Waters, one on May 20th-21st was also seen at Dagenham Chase (EBS).
- Middx KGV Res, singles on Feb 15th (AVM) and from Sept 18th to 24th (PN). Queen Mary Res, one on Feb 14th-15th (REI, DJM).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one from Mar 9th to Apr 22nd (CDRH *et al*).
- Surrey Thorpe Water Park, one from Jan 1st to Feb 22nd (mo).

It is believed by some of the observers that the records in Jan and Feb from Middx and Surrey all relate to the same individual, and that this is the same bird seen in the area since June 2003.

0011 Slavonian Grebe***Podiceps auritus***

Status: scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

- Essex Dagenham Chase NR, a pair in summer plumage from Apr 3rd to 17th was seen displaying (VHF *et al*). Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Jan 11th (CW).
- Middx KGV Res, two on Nov 25th (PN).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, a 1st-winter on Oct 19th (CDRH).
- Kent Northfleet, one on Thames on Oct 11th (SC).

0012 Black-necked Grebe***Podiceps nigricollis***

Status: passage and winter migrant and rare breeder.

- Essex Fairlop Waters, one on Aug 29th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Apr 2nd. KGV Res, three from Mar 27th increasing to four on Mar 29th and five on Apr 4th and 6th, two remaining on Apr 8th, one on Oct 17th. Stubbers OPC, one on seven dates from Jan 3rd to Feb 29th. Walthamstow Res, one from Mar 17th to Apr 2nd, two on Apr 4th. Monthly maxima from Wm Girling Res shown below:

J F M A M J J A S O N D

15 16 22 4 - 2 - 16 22 18 23 21

- Herts Site A, nine pairs present during summer with eight broods hatched; an adult with three juvs remained until Dec 27th with one bird still present on Dec 31st.
- Middx Brent Res, singles on Mar 28th and from Aug 1st to 10th. KGV I Res, one on Apr 1st, two on July 18th, then 1–3 for remainder of year with a peak of five on Sept 29th. Staines Res, one from Feb 21st, max of four on Mar 29th and 31st, last of spring on Apr 20th, first of autumn on July 19th, max of six on Aug 14th to 16th, two still present on Dec 31st.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Aug 13th. Wraysbury GP, one on Nov 4th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on Aug 11th.
- Surrey Island Barn Res, one on Mar 29th, a pair on Apr 16th, two on Sept 6th–8th with one staying to 9th, one from Nov 27th to Dec 4th with two on Nov 30th. QE II Res, two on Aug 8th and Dec 6th. Thorpe Water Park, one on Nov 21st. Walton Res, a pair on Apr 16th (different from Island Barn Res), two on Aug 5th, three on Aug 9th, two on Sept 16th.

0046 Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*
 Status: rare visitor, usually in autumn.

- Middx Staines Res, one on the South Basin on Sept 12th (mo).
- Surrey Tolworth, one found grounded on Sept 22nd taken to a wildlife aid centre in Leatherhead (JBd).

0055 Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*
 Status: rare visitor, often during 'wreck' conditions.

- Essex Wm Girling Res, one on 8th Nov (PJV, ADW).
- Middx Staines Res, one on Sept 24th (RDn *et al*).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Oct 16th (CDRH, CL).
- Surrey QE II Res, one on Dec 6th (DMH, FJM, SJS *et al*).

Although four records in one year is above average, these all occurred in different months so cannot be accounted for by one influx. It could be that global warming is causing more storms in the last few months of the year.

0071 Gannet *Morus bassanus*
 Status: scarce visitor.

- Kent Crayford Marsh/Dartford Marsh, one on July 4th flying E down Thames at 08.55, landed between Crayford and Rainham Marsh before resettling opposite Darent Mouth and last seen drifting down river at 09.30 (DM).

The 64th record for the LNHS area.

0072 Cormorant***Phalacrocorax carbo***

Status: increasing breeding resident and common, elsewhere especially in winter.

Monthly maxima at regularly counted sites with one or more returns of over 100 are tabulated. Breeding records (number of pairs in brackets), notable counts and interesting records from other localities are shown in the sector summaries.

| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Middx | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| KGVI Res | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | - | 8 | 4 | - | 6 | 3 | 243 | 238 |
| Queen Mary Res | 109 | 24 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 36 | 19 | 23 | 44 |
| Staines Res | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 116 | 174 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 15 |
| Surrey | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Island Barn Res | 14 | 21 | 9 | 67 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 301 | 195 | 116 | 77 | 24 |
| QE II Res (roost counts) | 358 | 360 | 620 | 270 | 232 | 138 | 294 | 430 | 258 | 265 | 380 | 295 |
| Walton Res | 80 | 160 | 247 | 126 | 4 | 10 | 184 | 255 | 193 | 168 | 89 | 43 |

- Essex Holyfield Lake (27). Netherhall GP, 59 on Dec 12th. Rainham Marshes, 200 on Jan 25th. Walthamstow Res (360), 453 on Sept 19th.
- Herts Amwell GP (1), 65 on Feb 25th, one colour-ringed as a chick at Rutland Water in 2003 seen on July 20th and 23rd. Bury Lake, 45 on Dec 12th. Maple Lodge NR, one colour-ringed as a chick near Nantes, France seen on Feb 17th and May 28th. Rye Meads RSPB, 50 on Aug 31st. Stocker's Lake (4), 55 in Feb. Tyttenhanger GP, 62 on Feb 28th.
- Middx Brent Res, 69 on Nov 14th. Broadwater Lake (42), 300 regular in winter roost. Tottenham Marsh, c40 on Aug 7th. Wraysbury Res, 49 on Feb 22nd.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 66 on Jan 5th and Dec 15th. Swanscombe Marsh, 38 on Oct 17th.
- Surrey Gatton Park Lake, 35 on Feb 29th. London Wetland Centre, 59 on Mar 20th. QE II Res (1 failed). Thorpe Water Park, 84 on Jan 18th.
- In Lond Battersea Bridge, 30 on Mar 15th. Battersea Power Station, 30+ on Oct 6th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, 54 on Nov 26th. R. Thames, Westminster, 100 on Sept 18th. Regents Park, peak of 80 roosted in Dec. Tate Modern, 31 on Mar 30th.

0095 Bittern***Botaurus stellaris***

Status: scarce winter visitor, often returning to favoured sites.

- Essex Berwick Ponds, two on Jan 1st, one from Feb 14th to 28th; one intermittently from Nov 18th to Dec 19th (DMn *et al*).
- Herts Amwell GP, singles on Jan 11th, Jan 23rd to Feb 5th and Mar 6th (mo). Cheshunt GP (North Met), singles on Nov 15th and Dec 19th (DJBh, JFk). Seventy Acres Lake, one intermittently from Jan 1st to Mar 18th, with two on Jan 3rd and 10th; one from Oct 11th to Nov 3rd (mo).
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, singles on Jan 4th, Feb 2nd; Dec 19th and 26th (ACh *et al*).
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, one from Jan 3rd to Mar 1st (SWRR).

Surrey London Wetland Centre, one remaining from 2003 until Mar 18th, with two from Jan 4th to 24th; two on Dec 1st and 11th, with one remaining until the end of Dec (BENHG). Richmond Park, one on Jan 28th (BG).

The last bird of the spring was on Mar 18th and the first returnee on Oct 11th, both at Seventy Acres Lake. The table below details all monthly sightings in the last 3 years. Numbers this year were noticeably fewer than the previous few years, although still probably close to the average.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2002 | 13 | 9 | 5 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 9 | 14 |
| 2003 | 22 | 12 | 7 | 3 | - | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 2004 | 10 | 6 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | 6 |

0104 Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Status: rare vagrant

Surrey London Wetland Centre, a 1st-summer bird flushed at 09.50 on May 5th, flew off downriver before returning. It showed intermittently all day until at least 21.20 hrs. Also seen on May 8th when it flew into the main reedbed at 18.15 (AS,JGd,JFn,RHo).

The 11th London record and the 5th to arrive in May—the best month for overshooting European migrants.

0111 1995 Correction Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Status: rare vagrant

Herts Stocker's Lake, one roosted on the evenings of July 20th-22nd and was last seen on the morning of 23rd.

This had previously been treated as being an escape but has now been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee. There have now been five records (of 12 birds) in the London Area.

0119 Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Status: now regular and ever increasing visitor in growing numbers.

The year saw continued expansion, with records received from at least 76 sites during the year (up from 60 last year), including another Inner London sighting. The winter roost at Broadwater Lake in the Colne Valley reached new highs, with up to 20 birds in Jan, 23 in Feb and 34 in December. The Amwell roost reached peaks of 11 in Feb and Dec. These were the only two sites in London to reach double figures. The number of birds in the second winter period was probably close to the 100 mark.

The table below gives monthly maxima for localities reporting birds on many dates or with counts of four or more. The bottom line shows the approximate

number of birds seen in each month from those sites not included in the main table, and proves how mobile this species can be, and the difficulty in estimating just how many birds are present in the Area at any one time

| | | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|---------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Essex | K.George V Res | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| | Rainham | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 4 |
| Herts | Amwell GP | 9 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | - | 3 | 9 | 11 |
| | Hertingfordbury | 1 | - | 1 | 4 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Panshanger Pk | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | 4 | - |
| | Scotsbridge Mill | 2 | - | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Sopwell Mill | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Middx | Broadwater Lke | 20 | 23 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 18 | 34 |
| | Staines Res | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| | Stanwell Moor | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 3 | - | - | 1 | 4 |
| Kent | Barnes Cray | 1 | 2 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Dartford Marsh | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 |
| | Sevenoaks WR | 1 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 1 | - | 4 | 1 | - | 2 | - | - |
| Surrey | Beddington SF | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | 4 | - | - | - | 2 |
| | Wetland Centre | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 5 | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| | Combined 61 other sites | 28 | 21 | 16 | 9 | 3 | - | 10 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 13 |
| Totals | | 66 | 70 | 54 | 38 | 9 | 11 | 38 | 29 | 8 | 24 | 51 | 81 |

The pattern of regular wintering from Jan-Mar and Nov-Dec is now well established, together with a small spring passage followed by a much larger influx during July and Aug. Interestingly, as was the case last year, there appears to be an exodus out of the area in Sept, followed by a gradual return in Oct and Nov. An Inner London record is given below.

In Lond Paddington Green, W2, four flew NE at 07.08 hrs on Apr 12th (DTM).

0122 Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

Status: common breeding resident.

The total number of nests reported this year was 437, down from the 484 in 2003, but still quite high in historical terms; there was a lack of reports from a few sites which probably accounts for the decline in numbers. All details of nests are given below, with the number of nests in brackets, together with a few of the highest counts elsewhere.

- Essex Holyfield Lake (4). Ingrebourne Valley (14). Mayesbrook Park, Dagenham (5). Netherhall GP (3). Walthamstow Res (91).
- Herts Amwell GP (4). Frogmore GP, Radlett (2+). Stocker's Lake (24). Verulamium Park (12). Troy Mill Lake, 39 on Feb 22nd.
- Middx Broadwater Lake (16). Frays Valley LNR (8). Kempton Park (37). Little Britain Lake (12). Osterley Park (1). Princes Ski Club, Bedford (1).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP (11).
- Kent Kelsey Park (26). Swanscombe Marsh (7).
- Surrey Beddington SF, 30 in Jan, Aug and Oct. Bookham Common (25). Brentford Ait (27). Chiswick Eyot (2). Gatton Park Lake (30). Horton CP (5). Isleworth Ait (10). London Wetland Centre (1). Lonsdale Road Res (3). Morden Hall Park (5). Watermeads, Mitham (5).
- In Lond Battersea Park (19). Regent's Park (27).

- 0134 White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*
 Status: rare visitor.
- Essex South Ockenden, one preening on a rooftop on Mar 18th (CK). Whipps Cross Common, one on May 18th and 24th (PH).
- Herts Amwell GP, one at 18.30 on Apr 9th and one at 15.00 on May 11th (TA). Hertford, one watched from 18.00–18.30 then flew NE on May 15th (NPh). Rye Meads RSPB, one on May 13th (RMRG).
- Bucks New Denham, one from June 30th to July 3rd (AGt *et al*). Wraysbury GP, an unringed 1st-summer bird flew E at 13.20 on Apr 1st (CDRH).
- Surrey Addlestone, one flew SW at 13.00 on Sept 7th (JMo). Bookham Common, one flew over at 16.25 on Apr 1st (CP). Chertsey, one flew NE at 14.05 on Apr 1st (MJ). Fetcham, one on Apr 2nd (AMk). Leatherhead, one flew N on Apr 1st (DMS).

A remarkable series of records—quite unprecedented in London terms. The first record was on Mar 18th (one that had wintered near Ashford in Kent and subsequently returned there on Apr 3rd). It was seen again drifting over Wraysbury, Chertsey, Bookham Common and Leatherhead on Apr 1st and Fetcham on Apr 2nd. Subsequent sightings were on Apr 9th, 17th, five dates from May 11th to 24th and finally from June 30th to July 3rd where it settled down and was seen by many people. It is very likely that only one bird was involved in all these sightings; furthermore it seems possible that some of the sightings in 2003 also involved the same bird. The Addlestone bird in September was probably a different bird.

- 0231 Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*
 Status: scarce visitor.
- Mddx Wormwood Scrubs, a dark morph bird flew S at 07.40 on Aug 22nd (DJL).
- Surrey Horton CP, one flew E on Sept 12th (AGi). London Wetland Centre, a dark juvenile flew S at 07.55 on Aug 22nd (RK, PM, NPS).

The reports at Wormwood Scrubs and the London Wetland Centre undoubtedly involve the same individual.

- 0238 Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*
 Status: very rare vagrant.
- Essex Ilford, one over on June 25th (HV).

Following last year's two records (three sightings involving two birds); this becomes only the 7th London record. The record has been accepted by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

0239 Red Kite***Milvus milvus***

Status: scarce but increasing visitor.

All localities and dates are given below (singles unless otherwise stated).

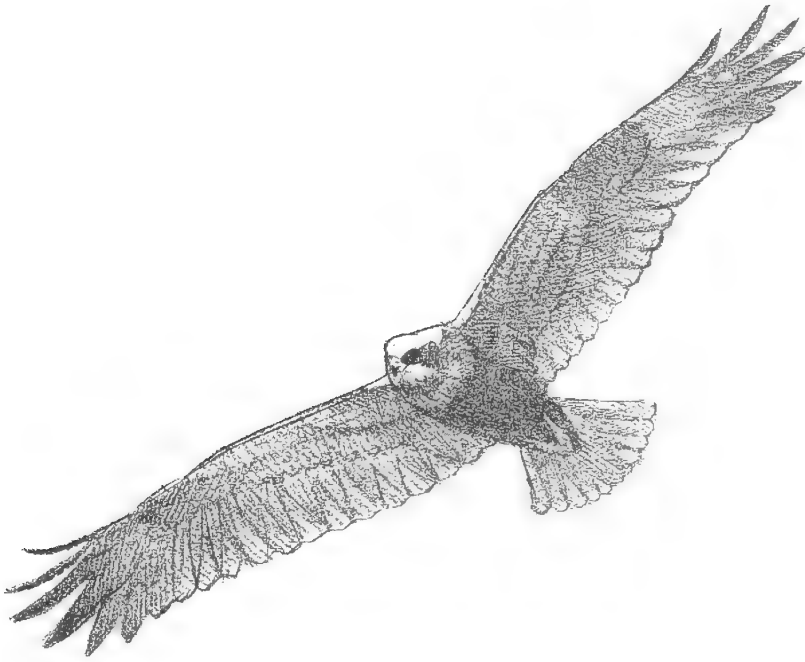
- Essex Cornmill Meadows, June 5th and July 6th. Gidea Park, July 4th. Grange Waters, two on Apr 4th. Hall Marsh, May 31st. Holyfield Hall Farm, Feb 5th and May 19th. Rainham Marshes, July 28th. Waltham Abbey, May 24th.
- Herts Amwell GP, Mar 25th and May 30th. Batchworth, Jan 24th. Brookmans Park, Nov 27th. Cassiobury Park, Mar 18th. Chorleywood Common, May 9th. Croxley Moor, Mar 30th (four) and Apr 16th. Garston, May 30th. Haberdashers School, Elstree, Apr 2nd. Hilfield Park Res, Apr 3rd. Maple Cross, Apr 16th and May 25th. Milwards Park, Apr 24th. North Mymms Park, Apr 3rd. Prae Wood, June 12th and 13th. Rickmansworth, June 18th. Rye Meads RSPB, May 19th and Dec 26th. St Albans, Apr 19th and May 17th. Tyttenhanger GP, Apr 1st (three), Apr 3rd and May 17th. Veraluminium Lake, Nov 19th. Watford, June 15th.
- Middx Brent Res, Dec 12th. Enfield, June 6th. Ruislip Lido, July 24th. Shepperton, Apr 27th. Theobalds Park, Enfield, June 10th. Trent Park, Sept 14th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, Aug 5th.
- Kent Greenwich Park, May 26th.
- Surrey Addington, May 24th. Beddington SF, May 9th. Coulsdon, Nov 7th. Croydon, May 24th. Little Woodcote, Dec 10th. London Wetland Centre, May 9th. QE II Res, Apr 17th and Dec 30th. South Norwood CP, Dec 19th. Tadworth, Mar 22nd.

With another huge increase in the number of reports (54 sightings this year following 38 in 2003) the Red Kite is rapidly becoming one of the more frequently seen large raptors within the London Area. As in 2003, the vast majority of sightings were during the spring with 38 of the above sightings between Mar 18th and June 18th.

0260 Marsh Harrier***Circus aeruginosus***

Status: scarce but increasing passage migrant.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, one on Sept 23rd. Harlow Town Park, one on Sept 6th. Hornchurch CP, one on Apr 7th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Sept 16th. Rainham Marshes, nine birds through between Aug 29th and Sept 18th.
- Herts Amwell, one on Mar 28th and a female on May 2nd. Hilfield Park Res, a juvenile on Oct 9th. Rye Meads RSPB, singles on July 21st and 22nd, Aug 5th and Sept 15th. Tyttenhanger GP, singles on May 17th and Aug 28th.
- Middx Brent Res, one on May 1st. Staines Moor, singles on May 13th, Sept 4th and 6th. Wormwood Scrubs, one on May 20th.
- Bucks Horton GP, one on May 13th. Queen Mother Res, one on Apr 2nd. Wraysbury GP, singles on Apr 3rd and 24th.
- Kent Crayford Marsh, one on Sept 5th. Dartford Marsh, singles on Sept 5th and 12th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on Apr 28th and singles on May 11th, Aug 2nd and 28th and Oct 28th. Island Barn Res, one on May 13th. London Wetland Centre, singles on May 7th and 8th and Aug 22nd. QE II Res, one on Aug 15th.



Another record year for this species. Even allowing for possible duplication of records, (the Kent birds, for instance, were seen to come across the Thames from the Essex side), at least 41 birds were recorded from 18 different sites—well ahead of last year's 26 individuals from 15 sites.

0261 Hen Harrier

Circus cyaneus

Status: scarce migrant; formerly a regular winter visitor to the Thames-side marshes.

- Essex Wm Girling Res, a ringtail on Oct 13th (PJV).
 Herts Beech Farm GP, a ringtail on Oct 15th (SHM).
 Surrey Beddington SF, one on Oct 23rd (BBR). London Wetland Centre, a ringtail on Aug 18th (RBk *et al.*)

0269 Sparrowhawk

Accipiter nisus

Status: common breeding resident.

Breeding season records are summarised in the table below.

| | <i>Pairs proved breeding</i> | <i>Pairs probably breeding</i> | <i>Other pairs present</i> | <i>Totals</i> |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Essex | 12 | - | 5 | 17 |
| Herts | 7 | 6 | 8 | 21 |
| Middx | 1 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| Bucks | - | - | - | - |
| Kent | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Surrey | 11 | 8 | 8 | 27 |
| In Lond | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| Totals | 35 | 21 | 25 | 81 |

Records came from 194 sites during the year, with Herts and Surrey receiving the best coverage—something that is reflected in the table showing breeding

pairs. The Sparrowhawk is now probably the most frequently encountered bird of prey in our area and, as a result, the records submitted are more of an indication of observer effort than a true picture of the numbers breeding in London. Singles were also reported in Inner London on the following dates:

In Lond Archbishops Park, Jan 10th. Battersea Bridge, Sept 11th and 26th. Buckingham Palace, Apr 15th, June 30th and Aug 28th. Holland Park, Jan 15th. Houses of Parliament, Aug 26th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, Jan 19th, Feb 24th, Aug 26th and Aug 29th. Oval area, Aug 28th. St James's Park, Dec 13th. Waterloo, May 11th, June 4th and Sept 9th.

0287 Common Buzzard

Buteo buteo

Status: rare breeder, becoming an increasingly regular resident/visitor.

Now resident at a number of sites to the north of London, with continued evidence which suggests breeding is taking place. Additional birds passing through the area include spring and autumn passage migrants as well as wandering individuals which may occur at any time of year.

Essex Reported from 12 sites with birds present during the breeding season in at least two of these—although there was no proof that nesting was attempted. Most records involved 1–3 birds, with one report of five together.

Herts This sector remains the stronghold for this species in London with records of up to ten coming from 50 sites; 11 of these had peak counts of three or more together. Birds were displaying at four sites, with a pair seen mating at one of these, and additional pairs were present during the breeding season in at least two other localities but there was no conclusive proof of breeding.

Middx Sightings of up to four (mostly singles) came from 19 sites during the year, with most recorded in the more northern parts of the county.

Bucks Only four records were received. Iver Heath, Feb 22nd and Apr 25th. Queen Mother Res, Oct 16th. Wraysbury GP, Sept 4th.

Kent Although seen at only six localities during the year, pairs were present during the spring at three of these.

Surrey Records of up to six together came from twenty sites, with birds present in spring at two of these, but there was no report of any birds displaying. Like last year, a series of passage birds was again reported from Beddington SF (seven singles in spring, three in autumn) and the Wetland Centre (eight in spring, one in autumn).

In Lond Paddington Green W2, one flew SW on Apr 2nd (DTM). Regent's Park, one S on June 1st (ARD, DJ).

0301 Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

Status: scarce passage migrant.

Essex KGV Res, one on July 20th (PJV). Waterworks NR, one on Apr 26th (GJ).

Herts Amwell GP, singles on Apr 5th (MCg), 9th (TA) and 23rd (BR). Broad Colney Lakes, one on May 16th (BPF). Hilfield Park Res, singles on Apr 9th, May 2nd and May 29th (SHM). Panshanger Park, one on Sept 19th (MCg *et al*).

- Middx KGVI Res, one on Aug 15th (DJM, PN). Staines Res, singles on May 7th (REI, CDRJ), Aug 9th and 24th (EM) and Oct 17th (APG, ASMS).
- Surrey Dungeon Hill, Woodmansterne, one flew SE on July 18th (GJH). London Wetland Centre, singles on Apr 9th (JGd, MRH) and May 14th (NPS). QE II Res, singles on Apr 4th, Sept 22nd and Oct 7th (DMH).
- In Lond Regent's Park, one flew over on May 17th (ARD, DJ).

22 Ospreys were seen this year, a record number in London.

1999 Additional record

- Surrey Beddington SF, one seen flying S on Aug 30th (DJEEd).

0304 Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

Status: common breeding resident.

Records of pairs in the breeding season are shown in the table below.

| | <i>Pairs proved breeding</i> | <i>Pairs probably breeding</i> | <i>Other pairs present</i> | <i>Totals</i> |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Essex | 3 | - | - | 3 |
| Herts | 5 | 1 | 4 | 10 |
| Middx | 3 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| Bucks | - | - | - | - |
| Kent | 9 | 3 | 3 | 15 |
| Surrey | 8 | 6 | 4 | 18 |
| In Lond | 3 | - | - | 3 |
| Totals | 31 | 11 | 14 | 56 |

Although the totals shown in the table are obviously an underestimate of the population (last years total for Essex was 36 pairs), the trend shown in recent bird reports is of a steady fall in numbers. All records of breeding, or the presence of pairs during the breeding season are welcomed for this, and other fairly common, species, to enable any real declines to be identified as they occur. Outside of the breeding season reports, mainly of 1–3 birds, came from 124 sites. The highest count at any one site was 11 at Rainham Marshes on Nov 14th (the maximum reported at any other site was six).

- In Lond Green Park, one on Sept 21st. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, nine reports of single birds between Aug 25th and Oct 30th. Millbank, one on Feb 26th. Regent's Park, two pairs bred. St James Park, two on Feb 17th and May 18th, singles on Oct 10th and Dec 20th. St Paul's Cathedral, one on Apr 16th. Tate Modern, singles on Jan 16th and Mar 26th. Waterloo, one on Sept 17th. Westminster, a pair attempted to nest. Whitehall Gardens, one on Mar 24th.

0309 Merlin

Falco columbarius

Status: scarce migrant and winter visitor.

All records are given below and refer to single females/immatures unless stated.

- Essex Royal Docks, a male on Oct 22nd (DMn). Waterworks NR, Mar 10th (GJ).

- Herts Tyttenhanger GP, a 1st-summer male on Mar 25th (IB). West Hyde GP, Feb 28th (JE).
- Middx KGVI Res, one on Oct 30th (AVM). Stanwell Moor, Mar 28th (REI). Vicarage Farm, Oct 6th (RMC).
- Surrey Beddington SF, a male and female on Mar 27th (RDW).

Ascertaining the actual status of Merlin in London is being hampered by the huge number of records being submitted without any supporting notes.

0310 Hobby

Falco subbuteo

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first migrant of the spring was seen at Tyttenhanger GP on Apr 1st, with no further sightings occurring until Apr 19th. Peak numbers were seen towards the end of May, and included counts of 12 at Wraysbury GP on May 23rd and Amwell on May 27th. In the autumn several individuals lingered into early October, with the last bird of the year seen at Bookham Common on Oct 9th.

Many observers commented on the variety of different prey items seen to be pursued or eaten—which included a captured Blue Tit and a Knot and an unidentified Bat (both of which got away safely), as well as the dragonflies, swifts and hirundines more regularly thought of as typical prey items.

| | <i>Pairs proved breeding</i> | <i>Pairs probably breeding</i> | <i>Other pairs present</i> | <i>Totals</i> |
|--------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Herts | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Middx | 6 | - | - | 6 |
| Bucks | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Surrey | 1 | - | 1 | 2 |
| Totals | 8 | 2 | 1 | 12 |

The number of breeding pairs reported (shown in the adjacent table) was down on last year's total of 18 (which included 13 proved breeding pairs). There were no reports of potential breeding pairs from Essex or Kent this year.

- In Lond Paddington Green, one on Aug 10th (DTM). Regent's Park, singles on May 2nd and 29th and Sept 10th (ARD, DJ).

0320 Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

Status: rare breeder, becoming an increasingly regular resident/winter visitor.

Two pairs were confirmed to have bred, both successfully fledging young, a third pair probably bred, with a fourth present during the summer. Birds seem to wander more widely outside of the breeding season, so are reported at far more sites during the autumn and winter months.

As expected Feral Pigeons are regularly taken as prey, but some of London's Peregrines seem to have developed more exotic tastes with Ring-necked Parakeets seen being eaten at Queen Mother Res and chased at Staines

Res, and two freshly killed Little Owls reportedly found among prey items at Queen Mother Res. A summary of all records is given below.

- Essex Reports involving several different individuals came from 14 localities during the year with the vast majority of these from the Lee Valley and sites bordering the Thames. A few additional records came from the Ingrebourne Valley and Dagenham Chase.
- Herts There were ten records in the Lee Valley, and eight from the Colne Valley GPs, with addition birds seen at Brookmans Park, Hatfield and South Mimms service station.
- Middx 25 of the 30 records from this sector came from Staines Res and Staines Moor, from which reports of up to two birds were received all year. Others were seen at Brent Res, East India Dock Basin, Stanwell Moor and Trent Park.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, records throughout the year at involving at least four different birds, with singles also seen at Chalfont Park and Wraysbury GP.
- Kent One pair bred, fledging two young. Other records (all singles) came from three sites along the Thames, Bexley, Oxleas Wood and Sevenoaks WR.
- Surrey Once again a pair probably bred on a tall town centre building where they were seen regularly throughout the summer. 18 other widely distributed sites produced records during the year, with Beddington SF and the Wetland Centre producing the most regular sightings.
- In Lond One pair bred, successfully fledging two chicks. At another site a pair was present throughout the summer, but they are not known to have bred. Elsewhere there were singles at Battersea Bridge on July 23rd and Dec 12th, two at Millwall FC Ground on Jan 18th and Jan 25th, one at St Paul's Cathedral on Mar 13th and singles at Waterloo on June 14th and Sept 29th.

2003 Additional Record

- In Lond A pair nested away from the Thames but the eggs vanished (ARD, DJ).

0407 Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

Status: common, but elusive, winter visitor; rare breeder.

Widely recorded during the winter, with records from at least 61 sites across the Area. At least seven pairs attempted to breed this year, with records from three other sites where birds were present during the breeding season. The table below details all the birds recorded in the first and last four months of the year, the peak months being January and November with 63 and 70 birds respectively. All details of summering birds are given, along with details of principal wintering sites recording more than two birds (and their peak counts in the first and second winter periods in brackets).

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Birds | 63 | 46 | 34 | 20 | 2 | 16 | 70 | 47 |

- Essex Berwick Ponds (4:0). Cornmill Meadows (3:0), one on June 8th. Hornchurch CP (4:0). Ingrebourne Valley (0:5).

- Herts Amwell GP (4:7), one pair present in the breeding season. Croxley Moor (4:0). Hampermill Lake (0:3). Rye Meads RSPB (4:8), three pairs bred. Seventy Acres Lake (6:6). Watford Link Road (3:4)
- Middx Brent Res (10:5). Springwell Lake, one on June 5th.
- Kent Ruxley GP (3:4). Sevenoaks WR (4:3).
- Surrey Beddington SF (3:1). London Wetland Centre (5:4), three pairs present, two broods seen. Molesey GP, present during the summer. Morden Hall Park (0:3). South Norwood CP (1:3)

0408 Spotted Crane***Porzana porzana***

Status: very scarce passage migrant

- Essex Hornchurch CP, a juvenile from Sept 18th-26th (LH *et al*).
- Surrey Beddington SF, a juvenile from Oct 21st to 30th (NG *et al*).

The first records since 2002, prior to that there were just three records in the 1990s (1999, 1998 and 1996).

0424 Moorhen***Gallinula chloropus***

Status: very common breeding resident.

The table below details all counts of 50 or more at all sites in the first and last four months of the year. The highest count of the year was 220 at the London Wetland Centre.

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | Dagenham Chase | 68 | - | 22 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Fishers Green | - | - | - | - | - | - | 81 | - |
| | Ingrebourne Valley | - | 121 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Walthamstow Res | - | 90 | 31 | - | - | - | - | 43 |
| Herts | Cheshunt GP | 59 | 104 | 65 | 23 | 61 | 74 | 46 | 98 |
| | Lynsters Farm | 63 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Maple Lodge NR | 61 | 40 | 44 | 38 | 18 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| | Rye Meads RSPB | 58 | 61 | 54 | - | 89 | 6 | 62 | 37 |
| Middx | Brent Res | 51 | 47 | 45 | - | 62 | 51 | 47 | 48 |
| | Hamp/Highgate | - | - | - | 46 | 59 | 47 | 49 | 55 |
| Surrey | Beddington SF | 72 | 67 | 47 | - | 112 | 118 | 109 | 93 |
| | Wetland Centre | 81 | 45 | 115 | 93 | 132 | 134 | 135 | 220 |
| | R. Wandle (Wandsworth—mouth) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 180 |

All breeding records of more than five pairs or broods are given below (in brackets), along with Inner London sightings.

- Essex Ponders End Lake (7). Valentines Park (8).
- Herts Amwell GP (10).
- Middx Ponders End Lake (7).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre (23+). Molesey GP (5). R. Wandle between Butter Hill and Morden Hall Park (54). Wimbledon Common (11).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (1+). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (2+). St James's Park, 75 on Jan 21st.

0429 Coot

Fulica atra

Status: very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

The table below details all counts for sites recording at least 200. The highest count was 813 at Cheshunt GP (consistently the best site); the peak month was October with 4,572 birds at the listed sites, although January, November and December all exceeded 4,000 birds.

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | Walthamstow Res | - | - | 192 | - | - | - | - | - | 410 |
| Herts | Amwell GP | 235 | 245 | 167 | 55 | - | 159 | 270 | 215 | 131 |
| | Bowyers GP | 252 | 97 | 166 | 53 | 123 | 208 | 310 | 358 | 301 |
| | Broxbourne GP | 491 | 338 | 152 | 132 | 252 | 231 | 169 | 238 | 255 |
| | Cheshunt GP | 795 | 640 | 479 | 224 | 269 | 637 | 694 | 808 | 813 |
| | Hilfield Park Res | 275 | 111 | 76 | 61 | 378 | 387 | 404 | 139 | 108 |
| | Lynsters Lake | 143 | 124 | 92 | 17 | - | 117 | 148 | 202 | 228 |
| | Rye Meads RSPB | 184 | 143 | 145 | - | - | 345 | 341 | 415 | 368 |
| | Stocker's Lake | 269 | 200 | 150 | 50 | 150 | 288 | 373 | 223 | 427 |
| Middx | Brent Res | 421 | 255 | 180 | - | 390 | 372 | 191 | 295 | 246 |
| | Ruislip Lido | - | - | - | 27 | 135 | 154 | 250 | 193 | 228 |
| | Stain Hill Res | 15 | 16 | 16 | 28 | 146 | 210 | 171 | 99 | 47 |
| | Staines Res | 42 | 45 | 42 | 17 | 378 | 335 | 574 | 433 | 42 |
| Kent | Ruxley GP | 205 | 155 | 130 | 100 | - | 175 | 195 | 240 | 235 |
| Surrey | Wetland Centre | 224 | 85 | 268 | 161 | 161 | 148 | 96 | 108 | 146 |
| | Thorpe Water Pk | 572 | 224 | 99 | - | - | - | 386 | 188 | 263 |

All breeding records of more than 10 broods are given below (in brackets), along with Inner London sightings.

- Essex Barking Park (22). Connaught Water (15). Valentines Park (25). Walthamstow Res (77).
- Herts Amwell GP (25). Broxbourne GP (13). Seventy Acres Lake (19).
- Bucks Farlows Lake (17). Little Orlitts Lake (13). Wraysbury GP (15).
- Surrey Beddington SF (31). London Wetland Centre (25). Waddon Ponds (19). R. Wandle (Butter Hill to Morden Hall Park) (31).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (7), 58 on Dec 30th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (5); 127 on Sept 28th. St James's Park, 164 on Mar 17th. Tate Modern (2 pairs attempted to breed on the R. Thames).

WADERS

During 2004, both numbers and variety of waders in the London area were boosted by the enticing wetland habitat at two of our main reservoirs, which were drained for part of the year. In the Lea Valley, both basins of KGV Res were empty during much of the summer, though observer access was curtailed from mid-Aug onwards after the discovery of unexploded munitions at the site. At Staines Res, the north basin was drained during June for repair work and stood mainly empty for the rest of the year. Observers on the causeway could often enjoy a spectacle worthy of a good east-coast marsh. If only it was like this every year . . .

However, in spite of the high numbers of both common and scarce passage species, the year passed without any truly rare waders appearing; birdwatching never seems to be that predictable!

0450 Oystercatcher***Haematopus ostralegus***

Status: localised breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

No territorial pairs were reported, for the first time in some years. During 1994–2003, as many as six Thames-side sites held territorial pairs every year, with Rainham the most regular. Oystercatcher has never bred successfully in London away from the Thames, though there have been two attempts at gravel pits.

Migrants were widespread, with the peak count an excellent 11 at QE II Res on Aug 14th. All records are detailed.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, three on Feb 22nd, two on Mar 22nd and one on Dec 12th. Beckton SW, two on Feb 11th. Bow Creek, two on Apr 11th. Creekmouth (Barking), two on Oct 1st and 23rd. Holyfield Hall Farm, singles on Apr 21st and May 7th, with two on May 8th. KGV Res, singles on Apr 10th, May 10th and July 4th and 19th, then two on July 20th and singles on 22nd, 24th and 27th, finally three on Aug 1st. Rainham Marshes, two on Apr 1st and one on Oct 24th. Walthamstow Marsh, one on June 1st. Walthamstow Res, one on Apr 23rd. West Thurrock, six on Feb 13th. Wm Girling Res, one on May 7th.
- Herts Amwell GP, singles on Apr 21st and 25th, and May 12th and 14th. Coopers Green GP, singles on Mar 13th and July 4th. Rye Meads RSPB, singles on July 4th and 19th. Seventy Acres Lake, singles on May 8th and 12th. Tyttenhanger GP, singles on Mar 14th and May 14th, then 1–2 during June 3rd–6th with one on 16th, and one on Aug 16th.
- Middx KGV Res, one on Mar 28th. Ponders End Lake, one on June 12th. Staines Res, one on Feb 14th; three on Mar 29th; two on Apr 3rd and singles on 10th, 17th and 24th–25th; one on May 14th and two on 27th–28th; one on June 3rd, then 1–3 from 17th–30th; 1–3 on 21 dates in July; one on Aug 1st–6th, then four on 7th were rather surprisingly the last of the year.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on May 11th and two on 20th; two on Oct 11th; and one on Nov 9th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Feb 28th; four on Apr 9th and singles on 12th and 20th; two on May 8th, one on 16th and two on 29th; one on Aug 28th and one on Sept 5th. Greenhithe, two on Feb 18th and two on Mar 20th. Littlebrook PS, two on June 13th and one on 19th. Northfleet, one on Sept 7th and two on Oct 11th. Sevenoaks WR, one on Mar 18th. Swanscombe Marsh, two on Mar 20th and three on May 8th. Thames Barrier area, two on June 25th. Thamesmead, one on Nov 9th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on July 21st. Island Barn Res, singles on Mar 28th and May 29th. London Wetland Centre, one on May 1st, two on 6th and 11th and one on 21st; singles on July 11th and Aug 11th. QE II Res, one on May 20th and three on 25th; singles on July 13th, 19th and 27th; up to 11 on Aug 14th and two on 22nd. Walton Res, singles on Mar 28th, June 14th and Sept 1st.
- In Lond Battersea Bridge, two flew west on May 18th (NG).

- 0456 Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*
 Status: scarce visitor in all months of the year and has bred once.
- The best year yet for this lovely wader featured a wide scattering of records across the Area. The flock of 26 in Kent on Mar 7th was the largest ever in London, breaking a record set as long ago as 1983, when 22 appeared at Amwell GP on Apr 25th. Typically, there was little pattern to the occurrences and nearly all involved birds which stayed no longer than a day.
- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, singles on Jan 1st (KB) and Dec 12th (SHn). Holyfield Hall Farm, four on May 2nd (LVPR). KGV Res, one on July 6th (PJV). Rainham Marshes, singles on Sept 30th (RSPB), 13 on Nov 24th (DSh) and two on 27th-28th (DMn, RSPB). West Thurrock, two on Dec 30th (DMn).
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Mar 31st (MHw, BR). Hilfield Park Res, one on Mar 18th (JT, SW). Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 1st (RH).
- Middx Staines Res, one flew SE on Apr 16th (KLP) and six from Aug 20th-31st, with two to Sept 1st (FRC *et al*).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, six on the Thames foreshore on Nov 7th (DM). Sevenoaks WR, one from Sept 12th-14th (MC). Swanscombe Marsh, 26 on the Thames on Mar 7th (BEW).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, two on Mar 28th (NPS *et al*). QE II and Walton Res, two on Apr 15th (DMH).

- 0459 Stone-curlew** *Burhinus oedicephalus*
 Status: rare passage migrant.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on May 2nd (PR *et al*) was present all day near the old pig farm.

A typical record. One-day appearances are the norm: during the ten years 1994–2003 there were six records in London, but only one of a bird which stayed more than a day. Recently, intensive conservation efforts have helped to raise the population of Stone-curlews in southern England, so perhaps we can hope to see more of them in the London Area.

- 0469 Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*
 Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

First this year was a single at Dagenham Chase on Mar 6th, with a more general arrival from Mar 17th. Peak spring counts were 12 at Tyttenhanger GP on Apr 17th, 11 at KGV Res on Apr 22nd and 11 at Seventy Acres Lake on May 5th. The return passage was as usual heaviest in July, but there were few double-figure concentrations, and most came from Staines Res. Here the highest count was of a flock of 22 flighty and vocal birds on July 22nd, with far fewer present thereafter. Elsewhere, the only post-breeding count of ten or more came from Tyttenhanger GP, with 12 on July 16th. Unusually, there were two Oct records, involving singles at Tyttenhanger on 1st and a final one at Staines Res on 4th.

Pairs present or attempting to breed totalled 42 this year, at 22 sites in all. This is slightly below the average during 1994–2003 of 47 pairs and 24 sites. However, this year's total owed much to a strong showing in the Essex sector. Are Little Ringed Plovers really doing so poorly in the rest of London?

| | Sites | Pairs attempted breeding | Other pairs present | Totals pairs |
|--------|-------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Essex | 10 | 18 | - | 18 |
| Herts | 5 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Middx | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Kent | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Surrey | 2 | 8 | - | 8 |
| Total | 22 | 35 | 7 | 42 |

0470 Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

Status: localised breeder, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

From records received, this was the worst breeding season in recent years, with only 13 pairs attempting or present at a total of seven sites. The average during 1994–2003 was about 20 pairs at 12 sites. At least five broods (possibly several more) were seen on the temporarily attractive north basin at Staines Res, where a large but still unfledged youngster was noted as late as Sept 1st.

| | Sites | Pairs attempted breeding | Other pairs present | Totals pairs |
|--------|-------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Essex | 1 | 1 | - | 1 |
| Herts | 3 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Middx | 2 | 6 | - | 6 |
| Surrey | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 7 | 9 | 3 | 13 |

Non-breeding records featured a strong migration in Aug and some decent totals late in the year from the Lower Thames. Higher counts as follows:

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 17 on Feb 22nd and ten on Dec 12th. KGV Res, seven on July 30th, then a strong passage in Aug with counts of 46 on 14th, 58 on 19th and 57 on 20th. Rainham Marshes, 13 on Oct 9th. West Thurrock, 12 on Feb 13th and 40 on Nov 14th.
- Herts Tyttenhanger GP, 12 on Mar 13th and 11 on Mar 21st.
- Middx Staines Res, 11 on May 25th, 18 on June 14th, 16 on July 29th, then influxes in Aug produced 51 on 9th, 80 on 13th and 70 on 16th; fewer in Sept, with 22 on 10th; Oct max 12 on 4th; last records were singles on Nov 5th and 11th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 12 on Feb 25th and Sept 23rd. Greenhithe, 11 on Jan 25th, 51 on Sept 19th, 23 on Oct 17th, 40 on Nov 21st and six on Dec 19th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 22 on May 1st and 21 on 3rd. London Wetland Centre, eight on May 16th. QE II Res, 14 grounded in rain on Aug 10th, then 12 through on 14th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one flew SE on Mar 18th (ARD, DJ), the first record since 1965.

0485 European Golden Plover***Pluvialis apricaria***

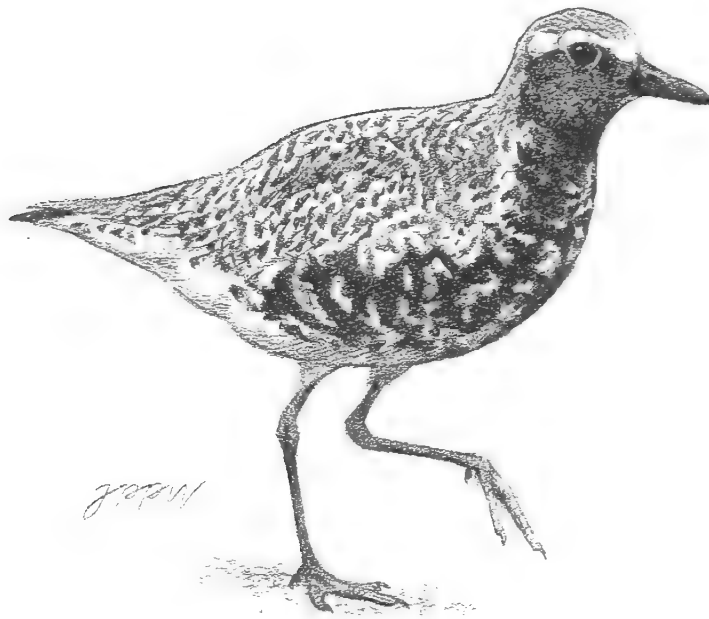
Status: regular winter visitor to parts of the Area, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor elsewhere.

In Herts, winter flocks were seen regularly in the St Albans/Hatfield area and also (presumably different birds) near Maple Cross in the Colne Valley. Counts received were rather lower than in other recent years. The Essex sector seems to have been deserted by the large numbers of previous years. Counts in the more regular areas were:

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|
| Essex | Dagenham Chase | 268 | 184 | 96 | - | - | 205 | - |
| | Fairlop Waters | 200 | - | - | - | - | - | 300 |
| Herts | Abbots Langley | 150 | 250 | - | - | - | - | 200 |
| | Albury Farm, Cheshunt | - | - | - | - | - | 400 | 400 |
| | Beech Farm GP | 1000 | 100 | 28 | - | 1000 | 80 | 100 |
| | Coopers Green GP | 700 | - | - | - | - | 80 | - |
| | Coursers Lane Fields | - | 2000 | 450 | 1000 | - | - | - |
| | Hatfield Garden Village | 1000 | - | - | - | 600 | 50 | 500 |
| | Oylers Farm | 950 | 702 | - | - | - | 1293 | 1000 |
| | Tythenanger Farm | - | 750 | 35 | - | - | - | - |
| | Tythenanger GP | - | 300 | 100 | 100 | 150 | 1000 | 200 |
| Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross | 200 | - | - | - | - | 200 | 1300 | |

Isolated larger counts for Essex and Herts, and all records for the other sectors, were as follows:

- Essex** Hainault, 120 on Jan 15th. Rainham GP, 110 on Oct 24th. Rainham Marshes, 180 on Feb 7th. South Ockendon, 117 on Feb 29th.
- Herts** Amwell GP, 250 on Jan 18th. Bowmansgreen Farm, 250 on Apr 2nd. Great Amwell, 350 on Jan 28th. Hatfield, 250 on Nov 3rd. Hilfield Park Res, 200 on Dec 12th. Nashes Farm, St Albans, 430 on Nov 13th. North Mymms Park, 430 on Nov 28th. Oylers Farm, an unusual greyish bird with the main flock on Feb 25th-27th was studied closely and considered definitely this species (ADW *et al*).
- Middx** Enfield, 300 circling over Plumridge Farm on Mar 4th and six there on Mar 15th. Laleham, nine on Feb 7th. Shepperton, one on Feb 7th. SITA Quarry (Sipson), 64 on Jan 25th and 215 on Mar 7th. Staines Moor, one on Dec 13th. Staines Res, 1-3 from Aug 3rd-21st, several singles in Sept, ten on Oct 27th, 32 on Nov 12th, 75 on 16th, 154 on 19th and 62 on 25th. Trent Park, one on Nov 23rd, 50 on Dec 10th and one on 23rd.
- Bucks** Queen Mother Res, seven flew SW on Sept 27th, 40 flew W on Nov 12th and nine flew W on 23rd. Shredding Green Farm (Iver), 26 on Jan 21st. Withy Bridge (Iver), 132 on Nov 11th.
- Kent** Crayford Marsh, one on Aug 8th. Dartford Marsh, five on Jan 17th and one on Aug 8th. Hawley, 200 on Jan 2nd.
- Surrey** Beddington SF, singles on Jan 25th and Mar 1st and 14th. Island Barn Res, one on Dec 27th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Sept 22nd and 28th, 44 flew W on Nov 7th, and two on Dec 12th.

**0486 Grey Plover*****Pluvialis squatarola***

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, and scarce winter visitor.

A lean year for birds on the Lower Thames, with hardly any present in the first winter period. Away from the Thames there was a good showing of migrants, mainly at regularly watched localities, all of which are detailed below. Typically, late autumn produced several such sightings.

All the other records were put into the shade, however, by the amazing occurrence on Aug 8th, when at 19.15 a single flock of about 170 Grey Plovers was seen flying high to the W near Limpsfield Chart in the S of the London Area. Although it was a warm, sunny evening at the site, there was clearly an unusual wider displacement of waders around that time. An exceptional flock of 450 Grey Plovers was seen flying W up the Thames at Allhallows, Kent, at 20.00 on the same day (KOS per PJO), and over the next three days there were marked influxes of other wader species into London, notably Ringed Plover, Knot, Ruff, Bar-tailed Godwit, Redshank and Greenshank.

- Essex KGV Res, one on Aug 20th. Rainham Marshes, singles on Jan 2nd and 17th, then regularly in Oct (max nine on 11th and 24th) and Nov (max seven on 1st), with one on Dec 18th and two on 29th. West Thurrock, two on Nov 14th and one on Dec 18th.
- Herts Amwell GP, one flew over on Jan 21st. Borehamwood, one flew high W on Oct 13th. Rye Meads RSPB, one on Nov 20th. Tyttenhanger GP, three flew over on Sept 26th.
- Middx Staines Res, one on Apr 14th, two on 29th and one on 30th; one on May 27th; three on June 1st and one on 20th; five on Aug 10th, 11 on 12th and one on 21st; one on Sept 24th-26th; one on Oct 7th-17th, with two on 11th and finally one on 28th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, five flew NE with 16 Bar-tailed Godwits on Apr 30th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Oct 2nd, two on Nov 6th and 7th and one on Dec 12th.

Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Mar 12th, May 27th, Sept 24th and Oct 12th, with two on Oct 11th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Jan 22nd, Oct 3rd and 12th. QE II Res, singles on Apr 2nd and 24th, May 25th and 27th. Trevereux, near Limpsfield Chart, 170 flew W on Aug 8th (PJO). Walton Res, one on Nov 6th.

0493 Northern Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus

Status: widespread breeding species, common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Roughly 115 territorial pairs were reported, compared with the ten-year average of 130 during 2003–1994. About 34 were in Essex and about 44 in Herts; as expected, the Rainham area held the most territories with 20. Attempted egg-collecting was reported at one Herts site. Higher counts for each sector are given below.

Essex Cornmill Meadows, 333 on Dec 10th. Dagenham Chase, 800 on Feb 22nd and 610 on Mar 6th. Fairlop Waters, 650 on Jan 27th and 600 on Dec 26th. Rainham Marshes, 2629 on Jan 25th, 3000 on Feb 7th, 500 on Oct 13th, 1600 on Nov 29th and 1585 on Dec 24th.

Herts Hatfield Aerodrome, 500 on Jan 1st. Hatfield Garden Village, 1500 on Jan 7th. Oylers Farm, 500 on Jan 22nd. Rye Meads RSPB, 302 on Jan 4th. Tyttenhanger GP, 375 in Jan, 530 on Feb 24th, 600 on Mar 6th, 403 on Aug 15th, 700 in Oct and 350 on Nov 25th. Waltham Cross, 1000+ on Jan 28th.

Middx Hampton Waterworks, 292 on Dec 14th. Kempton NR, 780 on Jan 20th, 1500 on Feb 13th, 725 on Mar 11th, and 110 on Oct 10th. Queen Mary Res, 200 on Dec 18th. Shepperton, 200 on Feb 20th. Staines Res, 238 on Aug 14th, 257 on Sept 29th, 600 on Oct 31st and 1200 on Nov 12th.

Bucks Withy Bridge (Iver), 100 on Nov 25th.

Kent Sevenoaks WR, 1043 on Jan 17th, 450 on Feb 23rd, 200 on Mar 3rd, 270 on Nov 21st and 1000 on Dec 20th.

Surrey Holmethorpe SP, 550 on Jan 1st, 1200 on Feb 8th and 1500 on Nov 25th. Island Barn Res, 235 on Jan 18th and 223 on Mar 1st. QE II Res, 296 on Oct 30th, 540 on Nov 24th and 226 on Dec 3rd.

In Lond Regent's Park, 44 flew SW on Mar 8th (ARD, DJ).

0496 Knot

Calidris canutus

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

A memorable year for this sometimes very uncommon migrant, with some noteworthy flocks, all in August, none of which stopped to land. Outstanding was the party of 40–45 at Staines Res on Aug 10th. These appeared at 08.50 over the north basin with about 30 Redshank and circled for five minutes before flying off S; most were noted as being in summer plumage. On Aug 28th, at the same site, a flock of 32 was seen circling low over the north basin at 13.00, eventually flying off high and disappearing to the SE. Finally, the next day, nine were seen at Staines circling and then flying off at 07.30, while on the same morning at QE II Res, a flock of 12 birds flew E at 07.10.

The midsummer single at Staines Res is also highly unusual, but was one of a series of appearances by Arctic-breeding waders at that reservoir in mid-late June this year. All records are given.

- Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, one on May 27th (SH). KGV Res, one on July 7th (PJV). West Thurrock, two on Jan 17th (HV).
- Herts Tyttenhanger GP, a first-winter on Oct 9th (GK).
- Middx Staines Res, one on Apr 17th and one on June 20th-21st; in July, one on 22nd and two on 25th; in Aug, one on 9th, 40-45 on 10th, singles on 13th and 22nd, 33 (32 and a single) on 28th and nine on 29th; in Sept, two on 8th, four on 9th, three on 12th, two on 13th, one on 14th-19th and one on 25th; in Oct, one on 5th, two on 11th, one on 27th and finally one on 30th (mo).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one from Aug 21st-30th (BBR). London Wetland Centre, four on Apr 27th, two flew N on May 2nd, one from Oct 12th-14th, two flew SW on Oct 28th and one on Nov 21st (mo). QE II Res, 12 flew E on Aug 29th (DMH). Walton Res, one from Aug 29th-31st (SJS *et al*).

0497 Sanderling

Calidris alba

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in winter.

Few sites attracted Sanderling this year—notably, none were reported from the Thames—but there was an excellent series of sightings from several favoured localities. This wader that can turn up in good numbers on concrete-banked reservoirs, without requiring mud or gravel. All records are given.

- Essex KGV Res, in May, singles on 2nd, 9th and 25th, three on 26th; two on July 28th and one on 31st; two on Aug 14th (PJV).
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on May 12th (RCs). Tyttenhanger GP, one on Oct 30th (GK).
- Middx KGV Res, all records in May, with three on 2nd, two on 3rd, one on 14th, two on 21st, eight on 23rd, two on 24th and three on 26th (mo). Staines Res, one on Apr 17th; in May, singles on 7th and 20th, four on 23rd, three on 26th, seven on 27th, three on 28th, five on 29th, six on 30th and 15 on 31st; in June, two on 4th, 16 on 5th and four on 6th; in July, two on 10th, two on 12th, four on 13th, singles on 18th and 20th and five on 25th-26th; in Aug, two on 13th, one on 15th, two on 16th, one on 18th and one on 20th; finally there were single juveniles on Sept 4th and 15th (mo).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Apr 29th; in May, singles on 14th, 24th and 27th; one on July 20th; in Aug, five on 16th, with one to 17th, four on 19th and singles on 20th and 24th (mo).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, in May, two N on 3rd (NPS), and one on 20th-21st (CT, TW, JPW). QE II Res, in May, nine on 1st, singles on 3rd, 4th and 18th, then two on 19th, one on 21st and one on 22nd-24th, and three on 27th; two on June 4th-5th and one on 7th; singles on July 25th, Aug 5th and Aug 16th-18th (DMH, SJS).

0501 Little Stint***Calidris minutus***

Status: passage migrant in variable, but usually small numbers, rare in winter.

Generally scarce this year, with reports from only three localities. At Staines Res, the most eye-catching sightings were the summer-plumaged trio on the unusual 'in-between' date of June 23rd, and the party of 11 present briefly on Sept 2nd. All records are detailed below.

Herts Tyttenhanger GP, one on Sept 2nd (GK).

Middx Staines Res, three on June 23rd; in July, two on 20th-21st, then three on 22nd, and one on 26th-27th; in Aug, four on 9th and two on 10th, then one or two on most dates to Sept 10th, but 11 on Sept 2nd; four on Sept 11th, two on 12th and four on 13th; in Oct, three on 9th, then one-four to 16th, with singles seen on most dates to 25th (mo).

Surrey Beddington SF, two from Aug 31st to Sept 6th (BBR).

0502 Temminck's Stint***Calidris temminckii***

Status: rare but annual passage migrant.

Essex Fairlop Waters, one on May 2nd (AAB *et al*).

Middx Kempton NR, one on May 19th (REI *et al*). Ponders End Lake, one on May 12th (SC). Staines Res, singles on June 14th (PN *et al*), July 5th (FJM *et al*) and Aug 23rd-24th (PN *et al*).

Kent Belvedere, one on May 12th (IM *et al*). Sevenoaks WR, one on May 13th (MC).

Surrey Beddington SF, one on May 22nd-24th (JPA, GDJM).

Another good year for this scarce migrant with nine individuals. It is intriguing to note the repeat appearances in Middx. At Kempton NR, this year's bird appeared on the same date as one last year, while at Ponders End Lake this year's had been preceded by singles on May 22nd 2002 and May 15th-16th 2003, all three found by the same regular observer at this modest wader site. These are not the first such examples in London: at Barn Elms Res (Surrey), two Temminck's Stints appeared on May 16th in both 1985 and 1986. Surely evidence of site fidelity by the same individual migrants in successive springs?

0507 Pectoral Sandpiper***Calidris melanotos***

Status: rare visitor, recorded most years.

Middx Staines Res, an adult from Aug 22nd-24th (LGRE *et al*), and presumed same from Sept 5th-12th at least (mo); a juvenile from Sept 4th-14th at least (AQ *et al*); another juvenile from Oct 3rd-14th at least (mo); and yet another juvenile from Oct 5th-6th at least (KLP *et al*).

All sightings this year were at the wader hotspot of Staines North Res. Here there were a minimum of four birds (as detailed above), but possibly as many as six. It seems likely that the August adult moved to Pingewood GP, near

Reading, Berks, where it was seen from Aug 26th to Sept 3rd, before returning to Staines on Sept 5th.

Four 'Pecs' in one autumn is a fine series for a London site, but has been equalled before at Staines, where four were seen during Sept and Oct 1984.

0509 Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*
Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, most regular in autumn.

No spring records, but there was a mid-summer appearance by two breeding-plumage adults at Staines Res. All except three London sightings came from the same reservoir this year, with a peak of nine on Sept 19th.

- Essex KGV Res, three adults on Aug 19th (PJV).
Middx Staines Res, two on June 22nd; two from July 22nd-27th, another one from July 30th to Aug 3rd; in Aug, three on 18th and one on 26th; in Sept, three on 5th, two on 6th and one to 14th, with two on 11th, six on 17th, five on 18th, nine on 19th, one on 20th, two on 24th, five on 25th, three on 26th, two on 27th, four on 28th, seven on 29th and eight on 30th; in Oct, daily from 1st-7th, with seven on 1st and 3rd, singles on 9th, 21st-22nd and finally 26th (mo).
Kent Northfleet, four flew E down the Thames at 12.30 on Oct 11th (SC).
Surrey Beddington SF, four flew S at 13.30 on Sept 25th (BBR).

0510 Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*
Status: very scarce late autumn and winter visitor.

- Surrey QE II Res, one on Oct 25th from 13.30–17.00 at least (DMH).

Particularly well photographed, this bird represented the eighth record for Surrey, at least seven of which have occurred within the LNHS Area.

0512 Dunlin *Calidris alpina*
Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

A year of low numbers on the Thames, with monthly maxima at the main sites as follows:

| | | Jan | Feb | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-------------------|-----|------|-----|-----|------|
| Essex | Barking Bay/Marsh | - | - | 245 | - | - |
| | Rainham Marshes | 200 | 70 | 50 | 311 | - |
| | West Thurrock | 200 | 1800 | - | 538 | 1500 |
| Kent | Dartford Marsh | 190 | 188 | 20 | 113 | 200 |
| | Greenhithe | - | - | 112 | - | - |

Elsewhere, there were two main talking-points this year. In spring, the rainy morning of May 3rd brought an obvious arrival at several localities (Amwell GP, Beddington SF, Brent Res, KGV I Res and the Wetland Centre). In autumn, exceptional numbers were seen at Staines Res, with a marked peak of migration in late July which brought up to 308—mostly adults; few juveniles

were on the move yet so early in the autumn. These are thought to be record numbers for Staines Res. Higher counts were as follows:

- Essex KGV Res, 11 on May 10th and 10 on 12th; influxes in July, with 11 on 11th, 33 on 12th, 62 on 19th and 27 on 27th; in Aug, 17 on 5th and 27 on 20th, with only one record thereafter. 1–3 from other sites.
- Herts Most were seen at Amwell GP, with five on May 3rd, and Tyttenhanger GP, with eight on July 18th and 5–7 to 22nd. 1–3 from four other sites.
- Middx Ashford Common, six at the water-treatment works on Jan 18th. Brent Res, five flew over on May 1st and 20 passed through on May 3rd. Kempton NR, eight on Feb 13th and six on May 15th. KGV Res, 29 on May 3rd. Staines Res, six on May 3rd and 13 on 29th; reported on 16 dates in June; heavy passage in July, with 13 on 4th, 65 on 10th, 111 on 12th, 184 on 20th, 217 on 22nd, 308 on 25th, 293 on 26th, 285 on 27th and 167 on 30th; in Aug, 95 on 1st, then a new influx mid-month peaking at 54 on 13th; in Sept, 22 on 11th, then passage picked up again with 56 on 26th and 96 on 30th; in Oct, 116 on 4th, 86 on 7th, 20 on 14th and 23 on 28th; Nov max. 16 on 22nd; none in Dec.
- Bucks All reports from Queen Mother Res, with 1–3 recorded on 20 dates from Mar 12th to Nov 21st.
- Kent Littlebrook PS, five on Feb 2nd; Northfleet, 12 on Oct 10th; Sevenoaks WR, seen on 13 dates from Mar 29th to Nov 15th, max four on May 8th. Swanscombe Marsh, 21 on Jan 2nd and 39 on Nov 21st.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 12 on May 1st and 44 on 3rd; 27 on Aug 5th. Chelsham, ten flew SSE at Broom Bank Quarry on Oct 24th. Island Barn Res, 1–2 on 11 dates from Mar 12th to Dec 27th. London Wetland Centre, 11 on Apr 29th and 22 on May 3rd. QE II Res, ten on Apr 27th and 13 on July 25th. Walton Res, 1–4 on ten dates at Knight/Bessborough Res, and five at Chelsea/Lambeth Res on Jan 28th.
- In Lond Battersea Bridge, 14 at Chelsea Creek on Aug 10th.

0517 Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Status: regular passage migrant, now rare winter visitor.

This year the only winter records were from Rainham; on migration, just a handful in spring and a meagre showing in autumn. Staines Res was the only site to attract Ruff for much of Aug and Sept, and was responsible for the year's most eye-catching record, on Aug 11th, when three juveniles there were joined in the late evening by a flock of 18 new arrivals, mostly adults. This was the last instalment of the noteworthy displacement of waders witnessed around London during Aug 8th-11th.

- Essex KGV Res, several singles during July 11th to Aug 6th, four on Aug 14th, five on 15th, three on 16th-17th and one on 20th. Rainham Marshes, 1–3 during Jan-May and one on Sept 30th.
- Middx Staines Res, one on Apr 19th-20th; 1–2 from July 6th-10th; in Aug 1–5 daily from 8th, but 21 on 11th; daily throughout Sept with max of nine on 5th and 10th; in Oct 1–3 on most days to 16th. Stanwell Moor, one on May 22nd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Apr 28th and May 10th and 19th; in Sept, singles on 7th, 14th-15th and 18th-20th; in Oct, two on 10th and one on 12th. Island

Barn Res, one on Mar 29th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Aug 12th and Sept 7th. Lonsdale Road Res, one on July 26th. QE II Res, one on Aug 8th.

0518 Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Status: widespread but elusive winter visitor and passage migrant.

Plenty of sites held Jack Snipe this year, though numbers were no higher than average. The peak count was 11 in the Horton/Wraysbury GP on Dec 10th. The last in spring were singles at Hogsmill SF and the London Wetland Centre on Apr 24th, and the first in autumn was at the latter site on Oct 5th. All records are listed.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, one on Feb 29th. Hall Marsh, one on Jan 5th. Mollands Lane GPs, one on Feb 9th. Rainham Marshes, one on Jan 4th, five on Oct 17th and one on 21st, three on Nov 14th and one on 15th. West Thurrock, up to five in Feb; two on Dec 18th and one on 19th.
- Herts Amwell GP, one in Jan, two on Feb 21st and 25th, one on Mar 10th and one on Nov 1st. Beech Farm GP, one on Mar 13th, 27th and 28th. Cheshunt GP, one on Jan 5th. Rye Meads RSPB, five on Jan 3rd, one on Feb 8th and one on Oct 19th. Seventy Acres Lake, one on Feb 7th. Tyttenhanger GP, singles on Jan 31st and Feb 11th, four on Nov 27th, five on Dec 12th and one on 25th.
- Middx Horsenden Hill, one on Mar 13th. Staines Moor, singles on Oct 16th and Nov 2nd.
- Bucks Horton GP, three on Feb 5th, six on 12th and five on 27th; six on Nov 1st and 18th. Horton/Wraysbury GP area, 11 on Dec 10th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, two on Mar 10th. Swanscombe Marsh, five on Jan 2nd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 1–3 from Jan to Mar; two on Apr 3rd; 1–2 in Oct and Nov; up to seven in Dec. Hersham GP, singles on Jan 9th and Mar 10th. Hogsmill SF, singles on Jan 5th, Feb 5th and Apr 24th. London Wetland Centre, 2–3 from Feb 21st—Mar 28th; two on Apr 9th and 17th, and one on 24th; 1–3 in Oct and Nov; up to five in Dec.

0519 Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, possibly extinct as a breeder.

No hint of any nesting this year, and very few records during May and June; all are listed below, along with the higher counts for each sector and all Inner London records.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, 18 on Apr 9th. Dagenham Chase, 15 on Jan 25th. Holyfield Hall Farm, one on May 9th. Rainham Marshes, 45 on Nov 29th. West Thurrock, 40 on Feb 28th and 55 on Dec 18th.
- Herts Beech Farm GP, 25 on Mar 27th; one on May 6th. Rye Meads RSPB, 67 on Jan 24th, 35 on Feb 7th, 25 on Mar 20th, one on May 8th, and 18 on Oct 16th. Seventy Acres Lake, 12 on Mar 10th.

- Middx Brent Res, one on May 1st; 22 on Dec 4th. Kempton NR, 23 on Mar 11th. Ponders End Lake, singles "at the end of May" and on June 14th. Staines Res, 41 on Aug 13th and Nov 11th. Stanwell Moor, one on June 11th.
- Bucks Horton GP, 47 on Feb 12th and 46 on Mar 29th. Queen Mother Res, ten flew W on Sept 30th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 19 on Jan 17th. Swanscombe Marsh, 11 on Jan 2nd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 24 on Mar 17th. Hersham GP, 51 on Jan 9th and 25 on 25th. London Wetland Centre, 25 on Jan 10th; two on May 1st and one on 3rd; 26 on Sept 28th; 46 on Oct 15th; 32 on Nov 7th; and 19 on Dec 26th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, three flew NW on Nov 20th and one on Dec 8th (ARD, DJ).

0529 Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Status: localised breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor.

As a breeding species, still found in suitable woods in several parts of our Area, and likely to be quite seriously under-recorded. This year, however, brought comments on its decline from Middlesex and Surrey. Listed below are all breeding-season records, sightings of two or more outside the breeding months and all Inner London records.

- Essex Epping Forest, a breeding-season survey found at least 22 roding birds in seven areas. Sewardstone Marsh, three on Jan 4th and Feb 6th, and two on Dec 29th and 31st. West Thurrock, two on Feb 28th.
- Herts Broxbourne GP, six flushed by a shooting party on Jan 27th. Broxbourne Woods, two roding birds. Hoddesdon, one roding bird. North Mymms Park, two on Mar 7th and Dec 4th. Northaw Great Wood, one roding bird.
- Middx Ten records of singles, from six sites. One Ruislip observer commented: "no longer breeds in local woods."
- Kent Only one record, of a single at Dartford Marsh on Feb 22nd.
- Surrey Chelsham, six in Holt Wood on Feb 10th. Limpsfield Chart, observer commented: "no roding birds for first time ever." Princes Coverts, three on the evening of May 15th. Richmond Park, three on Dec 5th. Wimbledon Common, three on Sept 8th.
- In Lond Kensington Gardens, one flew low N over Marlborough Gate on Dec 5th (DTM). Regent's Park, singles on Mar 18th and Nov 24th (ARD, DJ). St James's Park, one on Nov 25th (DGDL).

0532 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor in variable but increasing numbers.

An unprecedented year for this splendid wader. Good numbers were seen again on the lower Thames, and hordes on passage away from the River, too. Most are almost certainly of the northern race *islandica*; an English-bred *limosa* individual at Stanwell Moor (see below), was noteworthy.

Most wintering birds were at Rainham and West Thurrock, where the peak monthly counts were as follows:

| | Jan | Feb | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| West Thurrock | - | - | - | 35 | 18 |
| Rainham Marshes | 130 | 118 | 25 | 83 | 190 |

In autumn, exceptional numbers were recorded at the two large reservoirs, KGV and Staines, which had been drained and offered good wader habitat. At Staines, birds were recorded daily from July 1st to Oct 14th, and numbers usually seemed to build up during the day to an evening peak, suggesting a large daily turnover of migrants. Highest count at KGV was 42 on July 30th, and at Staines 50 on the "big wader day" of Aug 10th.

| | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct |
|-------------|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| Staines Res | 2 | 49 | 50 | 15 | 6 |
| KGV Res | - | 42 | 39 | - | - |

Records other than during the peak periods at the four sites above are detailed or summarised below.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, three on Feb 22nd, two on Mar 23rd and one on Dec 12th. Creekmouth (Barking), one on Oct 2nd. Dagenham Chase, singles on Mar 10th and 30th. Holyfield Hall Farm, singles on Nov 13th and 27th and two on Dec 8th.
- Herts Amwell GP, three flew S on July 22nd. Coopers Green GP, one on July 9th. Seventy Acres Lake, one on Apr 21st and three on July 5th.
- Middx Staines Moor, one on Aug 12th. Staines Res, one on Apr 1st and seven on 19th; in late autumn, frequent records with up to five (Oct 20th) until the last one on Nov 25th. Stanwell Moor, one from Aug 25th to Sept 6th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 11 on Jan 4th and 34 on 17th; three on Aug 22nd and two on 28th; one on Sept 23rd-25th, six on Oct 3rd and two on Nov 7th. Greenhithe, 17 on Dec 19th. Swanscombe Marsh, two on Jan 2nd and 27 on Nov 21st. Thamesmead, one on Sept 8th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, two on Aug 13th, four on 14th and one on 27th. Island Barn/Walton Res, four on Aug 14th. London Wetland Centre, two flew N on Mar 7th with one on 31st; four on June 21st; three on July 7th and Aug 1st, two on Aug 7th, and one on 22nd-23rd; two on Sept 4th and one on 30th.

Colour-ringed birds were another feature of the year, and observers researched the life-histories of examples at the following three sites:

Cornmill Meadows, one from Apr 4th-9th had been ringed as a chick in Iceland in July 2000 (IK).

Staines Res, one on Aug 16th had been ringed as an adult (female) in W Iceland on Apr 27th 2001 (KLP).

Stanwell Moor, one present from Mar 30th to Apr 2nd was a nominate-race (*limosa*) bird ringed by the RSPB as a nestling on the Nene Washes on May 25th 2001 (REI).

0534 Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers, scarce in winter.

A bumper year for this often fleeting passage visitor. Spring was excellent, especially during Apr 29th to May 1st, when no fewer than six sites recorded

double-figure flocks, c35 over Wormwood Scrubs on May 1st was the best tally. The other highlight this year was the exceptional flock of 100–110 birds which circled over Staines Res for five minutes on the rainy morning of Aug 10th, before flying off W. All records are given.

- Essex KGV Res, one on Apr 25th (PJV). Rainham Marshes, one on Nov 1st (HV).
 Herts Hilfield Park Res, 14 flew over on Apr 30th and one on May 2nd (SW). Rye Meads RSPB, 27 on May 1st (RMRG). Seventy Acres Lake, one on May 29th (TS). Tyttenhanger GP, one on May 2nd (AQ).
 Middx Brent Res, three on Mar 27th (ASMS, AGV). KGV Res, one on Apr 25th (REI, PN), also seen at Staines Res. Staines Res, two on Apr 25th–26th, with one to 29th; 12 flew E with a Grey Plover on Apr 29th; one on May 1st; one on July 20th–22nd; 106+ on Aug 10th (five flew SW at 06.35, 100–110 from 08.25–08.30, and one with a flock of Knot at 08.50); four on Aug 23rd and one on Sept 6th (REI, PN, KLP *et al*). Wormwood Scrubs, c35 flew over on May 1st (DJL).
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, four flew through on Apr 28th, and 16 flew NE with five Grey Plovers on Apr 30th (CDRH).
 Kent Dartford Marsh, one on May 13th and two on Sept 15th (PR).
 Surrey Beddington SF, four flew over on May 1st (PCf) and three on the lake (RDW). Epsom, one NE on Apr 29th (PBw). London Wetland Centre, one on Mar 31st (MWn), one N on May 1st (AHd *et al*), one on May 21st (JPPW *et al*) and two SW on Sept 11th (FS). QE II Res, one E on Mar 27th, one on Apr 25th; 22 on May 1st comprised a flock of 21 early morning, then flying off NE, and one that flew E at 07.23 (DMH).

0538 Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

Status: regular passage migrant.

Singles in Essex and Kent on Apr 14th were the first, and a good spring passage followed, with as usual most sightings in late April and the first few days of May. Eleven at Staines Res on Apr 21st were the most seen. At the same site, one on June 3rd was a very late spring migrant, a good ten days later than the final spring record in most years.

One at Staines Res on July 8th was the first returning bird. Autumn passage was, as normal, most obvious during July, though the most on any one day was nine at Staines Res on Aug 10th. Two at Beddington SF on Sept 15th were the last of the year by a full three weeks. All records are given.

- Essex Fairlop, one on May 1st. Holyfield Hall Farm two on Apr 21st. Ilford, one on July 20th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on July 14th. KGV Res, singles on May 10th and July 19th. Sewardstone Marsh, one on Apr 14th. Walthamstow Res, two N on May 2nd. Wm Girling Res, one on Aug 17th.
 Herts Amwell GP, one on May 1st. Birch Green, five in a field on May 1st. Hilfield Park Res, one on Apr 26th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 21st.
 Middx Brent Res, two on May 2nd. Staines Res, two on Apr 19th, one on 20th, 11 SE on 21st, singles on 22nd and 24th, and three on 25th; one N with a Curlew on May 10th and three on 20th; one on June 3rd; one on July 8th, two on 16th,

one on 19th, two on 22nd, three on 23rd and singles on 25th and 27th; three on Aug 9th, nine on 10th and one on 23rd.

- Bucks Queen Mother Res, two on Apr 16th, three singles flew over on May 2nd, two on May 8th and four on July 20th. Wraysbury GP, four on Apr 19th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, singles on Apr 14th and 16th, and three on 17th. Swanscombe Marsh, one on May 8th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on Apr 21st; seven on May 1st and one on 3rd; singles on Aug 10th and 13th; and five W on July 14th. Island Barn Res, one on Apr 17th. London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 17th and three on May 1st. Molesey Heath, one on May 2nd. Nork, two on Aug 11th. QE II Res, singles on Apr 19th, 25th, 26th and 28th, and four on July 20th. Walton Res, one on Apr 16th, eight on 17th and one on 21st, then one on July 24th.

0541 Curlew

Numenius arquata

Status: winter visitor and passage migrant.

On the Thames, the highest counts were made early and late in the year at Dartford Marsh and West Thurrock, as follows:

| | Jan | Feb | Nov | Dec |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Dartford Marsh | 3 | 26 | 24 | 2 |
| West Thurrock | 23 | 16 | 26 | 17 |

All other records—typically scattered and without marked concentration—are given or summarised.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, one on Dec 12th. Fishers Green, one on May 2nd. KGV Res, singles on July 12th, 13th and 21st, and four on Aug 5th. Rainham Marshes, highest counts were 14 on Jan 21st and ten on Dec 12th, with many single-figure counts during Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec. Weald Park, one on Feb 14th. Wm Girling Res, one on Mar 4th.
- Herts Beech Farm GP, singles on Feb 1st and Apr 10th. Rye Meads RSPB, two on Apr 24th. Seventy Acres Lake, one on May 2nd. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Feb 1st, two on Mar 28th, one on June 28th and one on July 28th.
- Middx Bentley Priory, two on Feb 17th. Brent Res, one on Mar 6th. Staines Res, singles on Jan 1st, Feb 29th, May 10th and June 16th, 23rd and 25th; four on June 26th, and singles on 27th and 29th; two on July 1st and singles on 5th-6th, 12th, 15th and 19th; singles on Aug 4th-6th, two on 9th, three on 10th, singles on 19th and 20th, and two on 23rd; singles on Sept 2nd and 7th, three on 26th; three on Nov 2nd and one on 7th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Jan 1st, six on Mar 29th, and singles on July 3rd and Aug 9th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, eight on May 9th. Swanscombe Marsh, singles on Jan 2nd and 25th, 11 on Feb 18th, one on Mar 20th, two on May 8th, one on Sept 19th, two on Nov 21st and one on Dec 19th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Feb 14th, Apr 4th and Oct 9th. Chelsea/Lambeth Res, singles on May 22nd and 25th. Island Barn and QE II Res, one on Feb 17th. London Wetland Centre, one on Feb 17th, two on Mar 29th, one on Apr

18th and two on 19th, singles on May 29th, July 3rd, Aug 13th, Sept 7th and Nov 14th. Walton and QE II Res, one on Apr 2nd.

In Lond Regent's Park, 20 flew NE on June 19th and a single on July 25th (ARD, DJ).

0545 Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

Status: scarce passage migrant.

None in spring and only five in autumn this year. This superb bird seems as firmly in decline as the Black-tailed Godwit is increasing.

Essex KGV Res, a moulting adult on July 28th (EBS). Rainham Marshes, one on Sept 29th (HV).

Middx Staines Res, single adults from July 6th-11th (KLP *et al*) and on 22nd (REI, KLP), then a juvenile on Aug 28th-29th (PN, KLP *et al*).

0546 Redshank

Tringa totanus

Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant, but decreasing breeder.

The largest numbers are visitors to the lower Thames, where the higher counts were as follows:

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | Barking Bay/Marsh | 95 | - | - | - | - | 140 |
| | Rainham Marshes | 255 | - | - | 187 | 336 | 220 |
| | West Thurrock | 160 | 260 | - | - | 239 | 287 |
| Kent | Dartford Marsh | 74 | - | 26 | 20 | 50 | 12 |
| | Greenhithe | 62 | 10 | 1 | 48 | - | 39 |

As ever, many more territorial pairs than actual successes were reported. Predators are certainly a threat: at the London Wetland Centre, observers witnessed nest predation by Carrion Crows and a Grey Heron. Breeding records (territorial pairs in brackets) and other high counts are shown.

Essex Belhus Woods CP (5). Creekmouth, Barking, 32 on Dec 15th. Fishers Green (1). Ingrebourne Valley (1). KGV Res, 21 on July 11th and 24 on 12th. Leamouth, 34 on Jan 12th and ten on Nov 3rd. Rainham Marshes (18).

Herts Amwell GP (2, with one brood raised). Otterspool, a pair behaving territorially in late Mar and early Apr, but did not remain. Seventy Acres Lake (1). Tyttenhanger GP (3, with some success).

Middx East India Dock Basin, 123 on Jan 28th. Kempton NR, 22 on Jan 11th and 20 on Apr 8th; pair seen copulating on May 4th, but no further evidence of nesting. KGV Res, ten on Apr 1st. Staines Res, 13 on June 15th, 14 on July 10th, 33 on Aug 10th (the "big wader day"—nearly all arrived with a flock of Knot) and 15 on Nov 15th. Stanwell Moor (1).

Kent Littlebrook PS, 130 on Feb 1st. Swanscombe Marsh, 23 on Jan 2nd and 17 on Nov 21st.

Surrey Beddington SF (1). Island Barn Res, ten on Mar 22nd. London Wetland Centre (2), 19 on Apr 10th. Walton Res, 14 on Jan 24th, ten on Mar 22nd and 30th, 12 on Apr 15th, 11 on May 14th, ten on Nov 26th and 18 on Dec 24th.

0548 Greenshank***Tringa nebularia***

Status: common passage migrant, rare in winter.

Winter singles were seen at Rainham and at both ends of the year in Herts, where observers suggest the same individual may have wintered since 2001/2. Spring passage proper lasted from about Apr 5th to June 1st, with five the highest count, at KGV Res on Apr 25th and the Wetland Centre on Apr 30th. Return passage lasted from June 12th to Nov 2nd. The rainy Aug 9th brought high numbers to several sites, with five at Beddington SF, eight at KGV Res and the Wetland Centre, 16 at QE II Res and 38 at Staines Res.

A coloured-ringed bird seen at Staines Res during July 22nd to Aug 2nd had been ringed as a juvenile on Aug 24th 2002 at Thorney Island, W Sussex. All records are detailed or summarised below.

- Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, two on Aug 23rd. KGV Res, seen from June 26th to Oct 17th, with peaks of 13 on July 20th-21st and 12 on Aug 5th and 15th. Rainham Marshes, one on Dec 5th. Walthamstow Res, singles on Apr 23rd-25th and July 18th, and two on Aug 15th. Also singles at Cornmill Meadows and Rushey mead.
- Herts Amwell GP, two on Apr 25th and one on 26th-28th; one from July 28th to Aug 1st, two on Aug 2nd and two on Sept 6th. Beech Farm GP, one on Aug 29th and two on 30th. London Colney, one on several dates between Mar 6th and Apr 10th. Tyttenhanger GP, one wintered from Jan 24th to Apr 14th; one from May 25th-29th; singles in July from 13th but three on 17th; regular in Aug, with a max of five on 4th; one from Dec 3rd until the year-end. Also singles from Coopers Green GP, Hilfield Park Res, Rye Meads RSPB and Seventy Acres Lake.
- Middx KGV Res, five on Apr 25th and two on 27th, singles on May 16th and 27th, Aug 17th and Oct 24th. Staines Moor, two on Apr 28th. Staines Res, two on Apr 24th with one to 27th; singles on May 23rd and 27th-28th; in autumn from June 17th to Nov 2nd, with July max of 14 on 22nd; in Aug a large influx brought 38 on 9th-10th, with 22 still on 14th; a Sept max of eight on 3rd-5th; 1-2 on many dates in Oct, and two on Nov 2nd. Singles recorded from Kempton NR and Stanwell Moor.
- Bucks Singles recorded from Colnbrook and Queen Mother Res.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, four on May 4th, two on Aug 1st, one on 14th, four on 22nd and two on 28th; and one on Sept 25th. Also singles at Littlebrook PS and Sevenoaks WR.
- Surrey Beddington SF, three on Apr 25th and one on 26th; one on May 12th, two on 13th and one on 15th-16th; in autumn from July 12th to Aug 27th with a max of seven on July 22nd and Aug 18th; two late birds on Oct 28th. London Wetland Centre, singles on Apr 15th, 21st and 26th, with five on 30th; two on May 3rd and one on 15th; singles on July 31st, Aug 5th and 8th, eight on 9th and singles on 22nd-23rd, Sept 18th and Oct 28th. QE II Res, singles on May 24th, 27th and July 27th; an exceptional 16 on Aug 9th, then one on Aug 11th. Also single birds from Island Barn Res and Walton Res.

0553 Green Sandpiper***Tringa ochropus***

Status: widespread winter visitor and passage migrant, commonest in autumn.

A year of rather low numbers across the Area, though one traditionally most favoured locality—Beddington SF—still attracted lots. High counts here in autumn peaked at about 45 on Aug 18th.

There were two Inner London records, of singles at Regent's Park on July 22nd and Oct 15th (ARD, DJ). Maximum monthly counts at the most regular sites were as follows:

| | | <i>J</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>M</i> | <i>A</i> | <i>J</i> | <i>J</i> | <i>A</i> | <i>S</i> | <i>O</i> | <i>N</i> | <i>D</i> |
|--------|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Essex | Cornmill Meadows | - | - | - | 1 | - | 6 | - | 3 | - | 1 | - |
| | KGV Res | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 17 | - | 3 | - | - |
| | Rainham Marshes | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | 8 | 10 | 3 | 1 | - | 1 |
| | Walthamstow Res | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| | Wm Girling Res | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | - | - | 12 | 13 | - | 7 | 3 |
| Herts | Amwell GP | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| | Beech Farm GP | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| | Rye Meads RSPB | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 | - | 9 | 14 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 9 |
| | Tyttenhanger GP | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Middx | Staines Res | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 1 | - |
| Kent | Sevenoaks WR | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - |
| Surrey | Beddington SF | 10 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 38 | 45 | 21 | 8 | 15 | 8 |
| | Island Barn Res | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | - | 4 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| | London Wetland Centre | - | - | - | 6 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| | Walton Res | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

0554 Wood Sandpiper***Tringa glareola***

Status: uncommon passage migrant.

Five in spring is about average, but the autumn passage was strong, reflecting an excellent showing of this species throughout SE England during August. Ten at Staines Res on Aug 21st was the peak count.

- Essex Fairlop Waters, one from Apr 28th to May 1st, with two on Apr 30th (KB *et al*). Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Aug 9th (LVPR). KGV Res, one on July 28th, three on 29th with one to 30th; two on Aug 9th, then singles on 14th-15th and 19th (PJV); and two on Aug 20th (ADW). Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 30th.
- Herts Amwell GP, a juvenile from July 20th-23rd (BR).
- Middx Brent Res, two on May 3rd (ISE). Staines Res, one from July 20th-23rd, daily from Aug 9th to Sept 4th, with two on 9th, four on 10th-11th, seven on 12th, eight on 13th, ten on 21st, six on 25th and two on 30th, with one to Sept 4th and finally one on Sept 9th (mo).
- Kent Belvedere, one on May 12th-13th (IM *et al*). Sevenoaks WR, one on Aug 12th (SWRR).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one from July 29th to Aug 7th (DMS *et al*). London Wetland Centre, one on Aug 3rd, two on 17th, with one to 20th and one on Aug 22nd (mo). Walton Res, an adult at Bessborough Res on Aug 9th (DMH).

0556 Common Sandpiper***Actitis hypoleucos***

Status: common passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

During the months of Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec, birds were present at 16 sites, but with no more than two at any one. Spring migration peaked with a count of ten at KGVI Res on May 1st, with the last spring migrant at Hilfield Park Res on June 5th. Return passage began with one at Maple Lodge NR on June 13th. As usual most moved through in July and August, with a peak count this year of 40 at KGV Res on Aug 16th.

Inner London records came from Regent's Park, with singles on May 1st and 10th, two on July 2nd and Aug 10th and singles on Aug 13th and Nov 18th (ARD, DJ). Monthly maxima at the most productive sites were as follows:

| | | Apr | May | July | Aug | Sept |
|--------|-----------------------|-----|-----|------|-----|------|
| Essex | King George V Res | 2 | 1 | 11 | 40 | 3 |
| | Walthamstow Res | 1 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 6 |
| | Wm Girling Res | 1 | - | 10 | 20 | 6 |
| Herts | Hilfield Park Res | 3 | 5 | 4 | 12 | 2 |
| Middx | Brent Res | 1 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 2 |
| | KGVI Res | 1 | 10 | 5 | 18 | 2 |
| | Queen Mary Res | - | 2 | 4 | 26 | - |
| | Staines Res | 2 | 2 | 17 | 24 | 9 |
| | Wraysbury Res | - | - | 17 | - | 4 |
| Bucks | Queen Mother Res | 4 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 1 |
| Surrey | Beddington SF | 7 | 4 | 10 | 32 | 5 |
| | Island Barn Res | 1 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 2 |
| | London Wetland Centre | 4 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 1 |
| | QE II Res | 4 | 5 | 15 | 13 | 2 |

0561 Turnstone***Arenaria interpres***

Status: passage migrant and localised winter visitor.

- Essex Grays, six on Feb 22nd. KGV Res, two on May 5th; two on July 19th, singles on 20th and 27th; two on Aug 2nd, three on 14th, two on 15th and 17th and three on 19th; one on Sept 7th. West Thurrock, three on Nov 14th and six on 15th.
- Herts Amwell GP, singles on Apr 28th and May 10th. Seventy Acres Lake, one on May 12th. Tyttenhanger GP, four on July 18th.
- Middx KGVI Res, two on May 16th and two on Sept 3rd. Staines Res, three on Apr 24th and one on 30th; three on May 1st, five on 23rd and one on 30th; two on June 1st, eight on 3rd-5th, with three to 7th; in July, on most days from 18th, with a max of four on 26th; in Aug on 17 dates, with six on 4th and 24th and ten on 22nd; and two on Sept 3rd.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on Aug 3rd, 15th and 17th, three on Aug 19th.
- Kent Northfleet, one on Oct 10th. Swansombe Marsh, two on Jan 2nd and five on Nov 21st.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on May 10th and Aug 13th. London Wetland Centre, three on May 1st and two on 2nd, two on June 1st. QE II Res, singles on May 4th, 25th-26th and 27th, July 16th and 29th, and Aug 8th; four on Aug 13th, two on 14th and one on 19th. Walton Res, singles on May 1st and Aug 10th.

- 0567 Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*
 Status: regular, but scarce, autumn migrant; rare in spring and summer.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, five (two adults and three dark phases, probably juveniles) flew SE at 14.00 on Sept 23rd and were briefly joined by a Great Skua (SJS, JPPW *et al*).
- Kent Northfleet, one light-phase adult from 13.30–13.45 on Oct 11th (SC). Thamesmead, one dark-phase juvenile from 15.50–16.10 on Sept 9th also flew across the Thames to Barking Bay (Essex) (SC).

Three records totalling seven birds between Sept 9th and Oct 10th. Numerically, a similar year to 2003 when there were three records involving a total of four birds between Oct 17th and 20th.

- 0568 Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*
 Status: rare autumn migrant.
- Middx Staines Res: a pale-morph juvenile on Sept 9th was present in the morning to 16.50 when it flew off west (PN *et al*).

The 12th London Area record and following on nicely from last year's early dark-morph juvenile at Queen Mother Res on Aug 17th.

- 0569 Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*
 Status: rare autumn and winter visitor.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one present between Sept 22nd and 26th was found dead on the north shore during mid-morning on the 27th (CDRH, DP *et al*).
- One record this year, echoing the singular October occurrence in 2003, although the length of stay for this year's bird was unprecedented and enabled many birders to add it to their London list.

- Skua sp** *Stercorarius sp*
- Essex Walthamstow Res, one, probably a Pomarine, flew south on Oct 10th (DGDL).
- Middx Brent Res, one, probably an Arctic, flew over on Oct 3rd (ISE).

- 0575 Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*
 Status: regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

The table below gives the minimum total of individual birds on a monthly basis at the main sites. There were records in every month except June. Under each county a combined total of birds seen away from these sites is provided under 'Other Sites' (the number of such sites in each county is given in brackets). Many of these latter records refer to just one bird on one date.

| | Sites | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | KGV Res | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| | Nazeing GP | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| | Walthamstow Res | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| | Wm. Girling Res | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Other Sites (6) | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Herts | Amwell GP | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 2 |
| | Hillfield Park Res | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| | Other Sites (3) | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Middx | Staines Res | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 6 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| | Other Sites (7) | 2 | 3 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 3 |
| Bucks | Queen Mother Res | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | - |
| Kent | R. Thames | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| | Other Sites (1) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Surrey | Beddington SF | 4 | 3 | 4 | - | - | - | 4 | 2 | - | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| | QE II Res | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| | Other Sites (7) | 1 | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | 2 |

Quite how many birds are involved in all these records is unknown. This table shows peaks during the winter months. Systematic checking of winter gull-roosts would undoubtedly produce more sightings.

0578 Little Gull

Larus minutus

Status: regular passage migrant, occasional in summer and winter.

The first of the year was a singleton that appeared at Beddington SF on MARCH 16th followed by further singles at Amwell GP on the 21st, Bury Lake on the 26th and again at Beddington SF on the 28th. APRIL was, typically, a far more productive month from the outset with birds appearing at ten sites over the course of the month and with the first double figure counts being reported from the 15th onwards at two sites (reflecting 2003 in terms of date), most notably c32 at Staines Res on the 15th. The most significant count during MAY was a spectacular 61 birds at Rye Meads RSPB on the 1st followed by 25 which over flew the Wetland Centre, also on the 1st. The only site to report birds during JUNE was Staines Res where a single 1st-summer was reported on five dates between the 7th and 29th. Staines Res scored the only sightings of JULY with at least two birds between the 12th and 17th. Two sites reported birds during AUGUST, at QE II Res on the 18th and 19th and at Walton Res on the 25th. SEPTEMBER birds were reported from 11 sites up to the 26th but with no site reporting more than a rather paltry two birds and most reporting singles but including an unusual Inner London record of a bird at Kensington Gardens from 18th-24th. Birds in OCTOBER weren't any more widespread in terms of the number of sites reporting them and the best counts were of four at both Hillfield Park Res and Staines Res on the 16th. NOVEMBER sightings were of single birds from Horton GP on the 1st, Dartford Marsh on the 7th and Sevenoaks WR on the 21st. The year drew to a close for this species with a single bird that flew downriver at Dartford Marsh on DECEMBER 12th.

- 0582 Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*
 Status: very common winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional breeder.
- The breeding colony at Staines Res maintained its high number of nests this year with 54 on the rafts (c50 in 2003). In the summary below, all counts of 1,500 or more are given, together with the highest counts in Inner London.
- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 11,150 at roost on Jan 17th. Creekmouth, Barking, 2,665 at roost on Jan 17th. KGV Res, 7,600 at roost on Jan 18th; KGV Res/Wm Girling Res, 25,600 on Feb 7th in roost. Nazeing GP, c4,000 on Jan 31st, 1,800+ on Mar 11th, 1,823 on Dec 12th. Nazeing Meads, 2,390 at roost on Jan 18th. Rainham Marshes, 9,000 on Jan 2nd, 10,000 on Feb 7th. West Thurrock, 8,300 on Jan 17th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 1,820 on Jan 17th. Hilfield Park Res, 16,900 on Jan 17th. Rye Meads RSPB, 1,600 on Dec 11th.
- Middx Brent Res, 1,900+ at roost on Aug 17th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 8,645 on Jan 20th, 5,538 on Feb 23rd, 6,105 on Nov 4th, 14,862 on Dec 14th. QE II Res, 21,820 at roost on Jan 17th. R. Hogsmill (Riverside OS), c2,000 on Jan 1st, 2,050 on Dec 30th. R. Thames (Barnes to Putney), c1,920 on Jan 25th, c2,740 on Feb 22nd. Raeburn OS (Surbiton), c3,800 NW on Feb 26th.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 348 on Feb 1st, 260 on Dec 1st. Regent's Park, 350 in Feb. St. James's Park, c120 on Sept 1st. Tate Modern, c605 on Jan 19th.

0589 Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*
 Status: rare visitor.

- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one 2nd-winter in the roost on Apr 11th (CDRH), one 2nd-summer in the roost on July 21st, 24th and 26th was thought to be the same individual as that seen on April 11th and which was also seen at Little Marlow GP in Bucks (CDRH).
- Kent Greenwich Park, the returning adult on July 25th (PBn).

The Kent record refers to the adult first found at Charlton back in November 1996 with the Bucks birds comprising a new record and bringing the London Area total to a highly respectable 22 birds to date.

0590 Common Gull *Larus canus*
 Status: common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Significantly more roost counts were submitted this year. This winter visitor often gathers in quite large numbers on playing fields and other open areas with short grass to feed and loaf. The highest counts for those sites with 100 or more birds are given, along with counts of ten or more in Inner London.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 560 at roost on Jan 17th. Dagenham Dock, 313 at roost on Jan 17th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 200 on Jan 17th. KGV Res, 2,460 at roost on Jan 18th. KGV Res/Wm Girling Res, 9,460 on Jan 17th in roost. Nazeing GP, 800+ on Feb 13th and 250+ on Nov 23rd. Nazeing Meads, 720 at roost on Jan 18th. West Thurrock, 680 at roost on Jan 17th.
- Herts Abbots Langley, 300 on Jan 3rd. Amwell GP, 285 on Jan 17th and 340 on Dec 29th. Brookmans Park, 225 on Jan 11th, 100 on Dec 24th and Dec 31st. Hilfield Park Res, 2,300 at roost on Jan 17th. Rye Meads RSPB, 300 on Dec 11th.
- Middx Brent Res, 114 on Feb 22nd and 120+ on Dec 23rd. Bushy Park, 500 on Jan 27th and 100 on Feb 10th. Yeading Brook Meadows, c250 on Mar 14th.
- Kent Danson Park, 250+ on Jan 17th. Dartford Marsh, 232 on Jan 17th. Hall Place Gardens, 205 at pre-roost on Jan 21st. Sevenoaks WR, 120 on Feb 4th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 417 on Jan 20th, 333 on Feb 23rd and 155 on Dec 14th. R. Hogsmill (Riverside), c300 on Jan 1st and 200 on Dec 14th. Walton Res, 517 at roost on Feb 13th and 514 at roost on Dec 4th. Wimbledon Common, 150 on Mar 17th.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 25 on Jan 25th and 15 on Oct 15th. St. James's Park, 33 on Dec 29th. Tate Modern, 11 on Jan 16th and 13 on Mar 22nd.

0591 Lesser Black-backed Gull***Larus fuscus***

Status: common, most regular in autumn and winter; breeds in small numbers.

Its habit of nesting on flat rooftops means that many pairs are never seen. Any adult birds around buildings in the breeding season should be reported. All proved or possible breeding records are shown below.

- Essex Walthamstow Res, 27 pairs.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, one pair mating on a raft on May 9th. North Watford, several pairs present during the breeding season but not likely to have bred. Oxhey, two adults and two juveniles on Aug 6th were possibly the result of breeding at nearby Watford town centre. Watford town centre, 5–10 pairs present and displaying, breeding likely but not confirmed.
- Middx Brent Res, a pair displaying over the rafts on Apr 18th. Ponders End, one pair bred on a factory roof just north of Ponders End Lake.
- Surrey Kingston-Upon-Thames, adult feeding a juvenile on the John Lewis building on Aug 15th.
- In Lond Blackfriars Bridge, two pairs nested. Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, one pair took up residence on the tern raft during April but did not breed. Regent's Park, "breeding in increasing numbers in the surrounding area".

A selection of the largest counts over 100 is shown in the table below. Many of these sites had their peak counts in autumn, rather than winter.

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|------|-------|-----|-----|
| Essex | Barking Bay/Marsh | 690 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Creekmouth (Barking) | 131 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | KGV Res | 220 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Nazeing GP | - | 412 | 275 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Nazeing Meads | 230 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Rainham Marshes | 323 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | West Thurrock | 670 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Herts | Amwell GP | - | - | 1,100 | - | - | 1,200 | - | - |
| | Hillfield Park Res | 380 | - | 189 | 675 | 481 | 421 | - | - |
| | Rye Meads RSPB | - | - | - | - | - | - | 400 | - |
| Middx | Staines Res | - | - | - | 900 | - | - | - | - |
| Surrey | Beddington SF | 424 | 376 | - | 323 | 348 | 463 | 433 | 510 |
| | Island Barn Res | - | - | - | - | - | - | 469 | 368 |
| | London Wetland Centre | - | - | - | - | - | 123 | 103 | - |
| | QE II Res | 1,612 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Walton Res | 126 | 261 | - | - | - | - | 123 | - |

0592.02 Yellow-legged Gull***Larus michahellis***

Status: regular late summer and autumn visitor, widely reported in smaller numbers at other times of year.

The following table shows monthly maxima for all those sites where counts of ten or more birds were noted during the year.

| Site | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------------------|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Colnbrook | - | - | - | - | - | - | 22 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Queen Mother Res | 18 | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 36 | 48 | 8 | 20 | 9 | 4 |
| Rainham Marshes | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 23 | 3 | 4 |
| Dartford Marsh | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | 6 | - | 13 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| Swanscombe Marsh | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 9 | 14 | 2 | - |
| Broadwater Lake | 5 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 14 |
| KGVI Res | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | - | 12 | 22 | - | - | - | - |
| Staines Res | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 9 | 57 | 22 | 7 | 7 | 1 | - |
| Beddington SF | 3 | 5 | 1 | - | - | - | 10 | 2 | - | 4 | 7 | 10 |

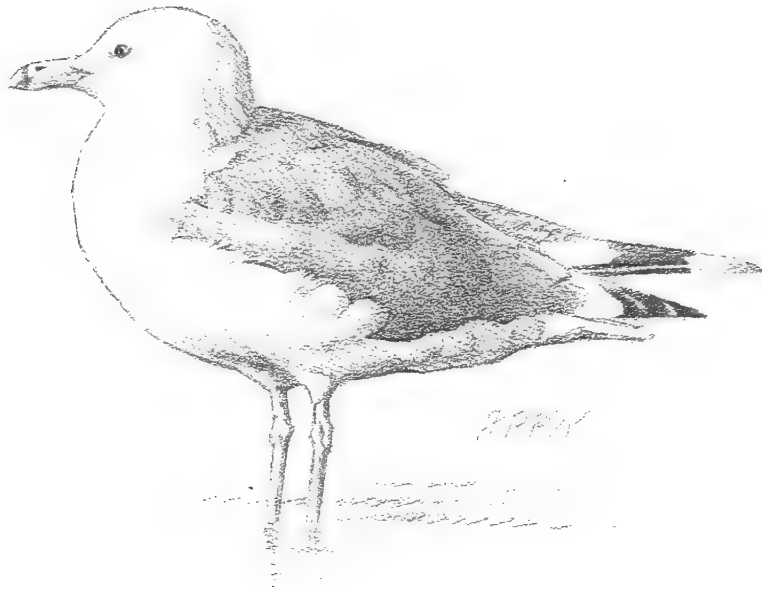
Elsewhere only relatively small numbers were reported from many sites in all months of the year. All sites where counts of five or more were reported are detailed below, together with all Inner London records.

Essex Nazeing GP, five on Jan 28th and seven on Jan 29th. West Thurrock, six on Jan 17th. Wm. Girling Res, six on Jan 3rd.

Herts Amwell GP, five on Dec 31st.

Surrey Island Barn Res, five on Aug 9th and nine on both Dec 18th and 22nd. London Wetland Centre, eight on Nov 7th. QE II Res, six on Dec 4th.

In Lond Battersea Bridge, one on Aug 12th. Regent's Park, one from Dec 15th into 2005. Tate Modern, one on Jan 6th.

**0592.01 Caspian Gull*****Larus cachinnans***

Status: rare, but likely to be an increasingly regular visitor.

For notes on the taxonomic status, identification and submission of records of this large gull, please refer to the comments under this species in *LBR: 2002*.

All records are given for those birds during the year that were considered by their observers to show characters of Caspian Gull.

- Essex Beckton, an adult on Jan 1st. Nazeing GP, an adult on Feb 3rd. Rainham Marshes, a 1st-year on Dec 5th. Royal Docks, an adult on Jan 2nd and 3rd returned on Nov 13th for its seventh winter and reported again on Dec 12th.
- Herts Amwell GP, adult on Jan 6th, a probable sub-adult on Jan 8th; 1st-winter on Feb 19th, 21st and 23rd; 2nd or 3rd-winter on Oct 17th and 22nd, 1st-winter on Oct 18th; 2nd-winter on Dec 30th.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, adults on Jan 4th and Feb 7th. Staines Res, a total of ten individuals seen during the year: an adult on Aug 2nd was seen again on 3rd along with a further two adults with one adult remaining on 4th-5th; adult on Oct 1st, adult and a 1st-winter on 10th, adult on 12th, a new adult on Oct 15th, 1st-winter on Oct 19th (different bird to Oct 10th), a new 1st-winter on Oct 28th; and a new 1st-winter on Nov 8th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, 1st-winter (from Dec 31st 2003) between Jan 1st-4th; one on Aug 27th; one juvenile moulting to 1st-winter on Oct 8th, two 1st-winters on 15th; 1st-winter on Nov 3rd and a different 1st-winter on 4th, 1st-winter on 20th, three on 23rd (an adult and two 1st-winters, one of which was probably the bird seen on 20th), 1st-winter on 24th, two on 25th (an adult and a 1st-winter which had been previously seen on 23rd), five on Nov 27th (two adults, two 1st-winters and a 2nd-winter); two on Dec 5th (an adult and 1st-winter, the adult probably the same as one of the birds on Nov 27th), one adult on Dec 10th (probably also present on Nov 27th and Dec 5th). Wraysbury GP, an adult on Jan 4th.
- Kent Crayford Marsh, adult on Dec 27th had been seen at Dartford Marsh the day before. Dartford Marsh, adult on Dec 26th.

- Surrey Beddington SF, adult on Jan 2nd and 6th, 2nd-winter on Jan 3rd and 19th, one on 20th, adult on both 22nd and 23rd; 1st-winter on March 6th; adult on Nov 25th, 4th-winter on Nov 30th; adult on Dec 3rd, 3rd-winter on 13th, adult on 16th, 3rd-winter on 17th and 20th, two on 21st (adult and a 3rd-winter), two on 24th (adult and 2nd-winter), adult on 28th, and 3rd-winter on 29th. London Wetland Centre, 1st-summer on May 9th and 14th, 2nd-winter on Oct 24th, 1st-summer moulting to 2nd-winter on Nov 14th. QE II Res, a *ponticus* type adult on Dec 4th.
- In Lond Kennington Park, an adult on Jan 21st.

0592 Herring Gull*Larus argentatus*

Status: common, most regular in winter; breeds in small numbers.

Enormously under-reported as a breeding species this year with comments, received from just four sites (down from 93 pairs reported in 2000). Observers are urged to report all sightings of adults in likely nesting areas during the breeding season.

- Essex Walthamstow Res, four pairs.
- Herts North Watford, at least one adult during the breeding season, but not thought likely to have bred. Watford, at least two pairs present during the breeding season, breeding considered likely but not confirmed.
- Middx Brent Res, juveniles were seen from the adjacent breeding colony at Staples Corner.
- In Lond Fisherton Street Estate NW8, three pairs raised a total of four young.

In the autumn and winter months, a selection of the largest counts from each county is shown in the table below. Although there were some impressive counts from several sites in Surrey, elsewhere counts, especially at roosts, were far more intermittent or non-existent. Birds of the Scandinavian race *argentatus* were reported from just two sites this year, including an influx at Staines Res from Aug 16th peaking at least 50 birds by Sept 21st.

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Essex | Nazeing GP | 100 | 260 | 120 | - | - | - | 5 | - |
| | Rainham Marshes | 247 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | West Thurrock | 330 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Herts | Amwell GP | 210 | 700 | - | - | - | - | - | 770 |
| | West Hyde | - | 821 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Middx | Broadwater Lake | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3,500 |
| Bucks | Wraysbury GP | 2,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Surrey | Beddington SF | 1,106 | 1,143 | 16 | 630 | 497 | 1,499 | 1,194 | 1,796 |
| | Island Barn Res | 311 | 102 | - | 91 | 8 | - | 2,480 | 1,207 |

- In Lond The highest counts were of 21 at South Bank SE1 on Apr 27th and 28 at St. James's Park on Apr 22nd.

- 0598 Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucooides*
 Status: scarce late winter and early spring visitor.
- Essex Nazeing GP/Meads, a worn 1st-winter on Mar 16th (ADW). Wm Girling Res, 1st-winter on Feb 10th (SC).
- Herts Amwell GP, a 1st-winter on Feb 13th-14th (BR) and 19th (TA), and Mar 20th-21st (BR). West Hyde, an adult on Feb 16th, 23rd and 26th (IB, JE).
- Middx Broadwater Lake, an adult at roost on Dec 19th (AVM) and a different adult on Dec 27th-28th (CL, AVM *et al*). Staines Res, a 1st-summer on Apr 30th (REI *et al*).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, an adult in the roost on Feb 12th (CDRH) and a second adult on Feb 24th (CDRH), a 1st-summer flew west at 19.54 on April 28th (same bird as at Staines Res on Apr 30th) (CDRH), an adult for ten minutes before flying off NW on Dec 5th (CDRH).
- Surrey Beddington SF, a 1st-winter on Dec 31st (BBR).

Additional Record 2001.

- Surrey Beddington SF, 1st-winter on Apr 29th (PA *et al*).

- 0599 Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*
 Status: scarce winter visitor, more regular in cold weather.
- Surrey Beddington SF, a 1st-winter on Feb 13th and 14th (BBR). Island Barn Res, a 1st-winter on Feb 14th (DMH).

Additional Record 1999.

- Surrey Beddington SF, a 1st-winter moulting to 1st-summer between Mar 6th and 11th and presumed same on Apr 5th (PA).

- 0600 Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*
 Status: fairly common winter visitor in small numbers, less common at other seasons.

Peak counts and Inner London records given below.

- Essex Barking Bay/Marsh, 45 on Jan 17th. Dagenham Dock, 28 on Jan 17th. Nazeing Meads, 60 on Jan 18th. Rainham Marshes, 286 on Nov 14th. Walthamstow Res, 30 on Jan 17th. West Thurrock, 186 on Jan 17th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 210 on Jan 24th and 330 on Dec 29th. Rye Meads RSPB, 22 on Jan 10th.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, 71 on Dec 31st.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, 64 on Nov 18th and 142 on Dec 27th. Withy Bridge (Iver), 107 on Jan 14th, 27 on Nov 25th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 29 on Oct 2nd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 45 on Jan 6th and 172 on Dec 28th. QE II Res, 24 on Feb 10th and 85 on Dec 27th. R. Hogsmill (Riverside), c50 on Jan 1st and 75 N on Oct 30th. Walton Res, 142 on Jan 15th, 67 on Feb 13th, 23 on Nov 20th and 85 on Dec 25th.

In Lond Battersea Bridge, two on most days from Jan-Mar with five on Sept 7th. Lambeth Bridge, one on several dates in Jan, 1–2 during Feb and one on Dec 1st. Millbank, two on Mar 31st and one on Sept 2nd. Regent's Park, four on Mar 1st. Southbank SE1, recorded on seven dates between Apr 7th and July 5th with a peak of three on May 26th. St. James's Park, one E on Dec 2nd. Tate Modern, recorded on 25 dates between Jan 5th and Aug 19th with peaks of three on both Jan 5th and 12th.

0602 Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Status: regular, but scarce, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Essex Tilbury Docks, an adult on Oct 11th.
 Herts Hillfield Park Res, an adult on Nov 21st.
 Middx Brent Res, an adult on Mar 14th. Staines Res, one on Apr 29th and a juvenile on Aug 8th.
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, an adult circled for eight minutes before moving off N on Mar 29th, single adults on Apr 16th and 29th, three (two adults and a 2nd-winter) on Nov 23rd.
 Kent Dartford Marsh, adult on Mar 13th. Thamesmead, a juvenile on Sept 7th.
 Surrey Beddington SF, a 1st-winter flew S on Jan 8th, an adult on Feb 6th. Carshalton, one flew over on Mar 15th. Island Barn Res, an adult on Apr 12th and two adults on 25th. London Wetland Centre, an adult flew W on July 18th and a 1st-winter flew S on Oct 16th.

0624 Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Status: uncommon, but annual, passage migrant.

Essex Holyfield Hall Farm and Holyfield Marsh GP, two adults on Apr 25th (TS, ADW). KGV Res, three on May 2nd and singles on May 12th and June 25th (PJV). Rainham Marshes, three on May 8th.
 Herts Hilfield Park Res, one on June 8th (SHM).
 Middx Brent Res, one on May 1st (ASMS *et al*). Staines Res, singles on May 1st (AVM, KLP), Aug 9th (PN), and Aug 23rd (mo).
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Aug 9th (CDRH).
 Surrey QE II Res, singles on May 3rd, July 29th and Aug 8th (DMH).

An increased number of records over 2003.

0627 Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Status: regular, often common, spring and autumn passage migrant, occasional in summer.

A considerable increase from 2003, particularly on autumn passage, gave an overall total of 161 observations of about 455 birds during the year. The highest counts were of six in May, and 59 in September.

The first bird of the year was at Staines Res on Apr 15th and then a gap of over a week until another single at KGV Res on Apr 24th. Following this, the end of April and early May was a little more lucrative, with singles at Holyfield Hall Farm and KGV Res on Apr 24th; three at Brent Res and two at the Wetland Centre on 29th; a single at Beddington SF on 30th; three at KGV Res and a single at Island Barn Res on May 1st; and singles at Holyfield Hall Farm, KGV Res and Walton Res and three at Amwell GP on May 2nd.

A smattering of other records from May 9th to 16th came from Walton Res Hilfield Park Res (six), KGV Res and Staines Res, and then from May 23rd through to June 5th sightings came only from Staines, with low numbers (maximum of four on May 26th) on four dates.

The next bird to appear was at Amwell GP on July 7th, followed by singles at KGV and Hilfield Park Res on 20th. Two were at QE II Res on 21st, and singles at KGV Res from 21st-24th. July ended with singles at QE II on 28th, 29th and 31st. Sightings increased in frequency and numbers picked up slightly during August, with sightings made at more than one location on most days in the month. The highest counts were at Tilbury Docks with 42 on 8th, 25 on 12th and 52 on 21st; followed by Staines Res, with seven on 2nd, nine on 4th, and eleven on 8th. Elsewhere, five were at QE II Res on 23rd and six at Queen Mary Res on 25th.

The start of September at last brought some larger counts, with 42 at Queen Mother Res and 35 at Staines Res on 2nd, and 59 at KGV Res on 3rd. From this point on, the records came in a daily trickle of low numbers—principally singles, but occasionally 2–4 birds—at the Surrey and Middlesex reservoirs through the rest of September and up to October 7th; as well as a pair at the Thamesmead outflow on Sept 7th. The final flurry of records came in mid-October, with a single at Walthamstow Res on Oct 13th, and one at both Island Barn Res and Walton Res on Oct 14th. The last record of the year came from Island Barn Res on Oct 17th.

0628 White-winged Black Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

Status: scarce vagrant.

Surrey A 1st-summer bird or poorly marked juvenile was seen briefly over the reservoir lagoon at London Wetland Centre on Aug 8th (RK). QE II Res, a juvenile on Sept 6th for half an hour (DMH).

Both records have been accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

0611 Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

Status: uncommon passage migrant, often in flocks.

It was another excellent year, with a total of 46 sightings of 174 birds, two more than 2003 and again only surpassed by the 186 birds seen in 1989. Spring passage started later, with 12 birds seen on Apr 2nd, eight at QE II Res, three at Queen Mother Res and a single at Staines Res. A steady trickle

of low numbers continued to Apr 11th. Summer records included no big groups; the largest number recorded was three birds, seen at Queen Mother Res on July 5th before appearing minutes later at Staines Res. Autumn passage got underway from Aug 22nd and the last sighting was at Horton Fields on Oct 11th. All records are given.

- Essex KGV Res, one on Apr 10th and two on 11th (also at Wm Girling Res). Loughton, one on July 15th. Walthamstow Res, one on Sept 25th-26th.
- Herts Tyttenhanger GP, one on May 3rd.
- Middx Brent Res, two on Apr 11th. KGVI Res, singles on Apr 3rd and May 3rd. Queen Mary Res, three on Sept 2nd. Staines Res, one on Apr 2nd, three on 3rd and two singles on 4th; one on May 11th and two on 28th; one on July 23rd and three on 25th; five on Sept 7th, and eight seen early on the 9th with five later in the day.
- Bucks Horton Fields, two on Oct 11th. Queen Mother Res, three on Apr 2nd and four on 5th; one on July 5th, three on 25th; and three on Sept 9th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, two on Aug 22nd and three on Sept 5th. Northfleet, one on July 5th; 38 on Sept 7th, 11 on 8th and 13 on 9th. R. Thames, at mouth of R. Darenth, two on Aug 22nd. Thamesmead, seven on Sept 9th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Apr 3rd and 10th and two on May 19th. London Wetland Centre, one on Apr 3rd, four on 18th and three on Sept 12th. QE II Res, eight on Apr 2nd and one on 4th; two on May 28th; and one on Aug 3rd.

0615 Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, increasing as a breeding species.

At least 221 breeding pairs were reported this year (256 in 2003), reasonably low but with no data reported from a few key sites. Total pairs at each site are given below (the number of pairs in brackets). Following this a summary of both spring and autumn migration is given, and also all Inner London records.

- Essex Walthamstow Res (31).
- Herts Amwell GP (15). Friday Lake (4+). Hilfield Park Res (4). Maple Lodge NR (3). Rye Meads RSPB (44). Seventy Acres Lake (6). Stocker's Lake (3).
- Middx Brent Res (41). Ponders End Lake (24). Staines Res (23, all probably failed). Stanwell Moor (1).
- Bucks Langley Park (1).
- Surrey London Wetland Centre (2). QE II Res (15+). South Norwood CP (1).

- Spring Following the record early arrival in 2003, this year saw a more usual first arrival date of April 2nd, when two parties of three got things underway at Queen Mother Res and Island Barn Res. There were further singles on Apr 3rd and 4th. From the 6th, sightings of ones and twos continued daily until the 14th, when counts slowly started to increase. The first count in double figures was 21 at Hilfield Park Res on Apr 18th, but most remained in single digits until the 23rd when 13 were at Staines, 12 at Island Barn Res and 15 at Walton. Numbers continued to build up slowly, with counts of twenty or more at Brent Res, Rye Meads and Staines Res on 24th and then 25 at Amwell, 19 at KGVI Res, 30 at Staines Res and 21 at Island Barn Res on 25th. Most

observations continued to be of modest size, with 65 at Brent Res on Apr 29th the month's highest count. May saw numbers pick up slightly at Staines, with 49 and 68 there on 3rd and 7th respectively, but other sites continued in the same vein as April, with counts in the teens and twenties at the main breeding sites and smaller numbers elsewhere. 75 at Brent Res on May 17th and 80 at Amwell GP on May 27th were the highest spring counts, but by then numbers generally had tailed off and most birds seen after the middle of May were probably local breeding birds.

Autumn All reasonably large counts during the mid-summer were at breeding colonies, but by the end of July numbers were starting to build up at some sites, with regular counts in the twenties at Tyttenhanger GP and 40–60 at KGV Res. However, as migration got underway, it was clear numbers were generally smaller than usual, similar to the spring passage. Mid-August saw 60 at KGV Res and 24 at QE II Res on 16th, and 50 at KGV Res and 40 at Brent Res on 16th, but these were by far the biggest numbers recorded on a single day for the rest of the month; birds were sighted in groups of less than ten with the exception of 36 at Queen Mother Res on Aug 29th. Numbers decreased slightly further in September, with no counts of more than five at inland sites after Sept 3rd except for 17 at Queen Mother Res on the last day of the month. However, there was a little more success on the Thames, with 50 and 70 at the Thamesmead outflow on Sept 7th and 8th. There were twenty October records this year, mostly singles; highest counts were seven at River Hogsmill on Oct 7th and three at Hilfield Park Res on Oct 14th. The last sighting was a single on the late date of Oct 24th at Walthamstow Res.

In Lond Battersea Bridge, three on May 18th, one on June 29th and two on July 8th. Hyde Park / Kensington Gardens, two on May 17th and 27th; one juvenile on June 1st; and a single on July 4th. Little Venice, one on July 7th. Regent's Park, singles on June 23rd and 29th and July 2nd, three on July 16th.

0616 Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

Status: regular spring and autumn passage migrant, occasionally in large flocks.

Spring migrants were noted between Apr 21st and May 12th, and overall numbers were somewhat better than 2003, with about 282 birds noted. First arrivals were in small numbers, the first being parties of three at Walton Res on Apr 21st followed by counts of up to three at seven different reservoirs until 27th. These counts increased with 10 at Staines Res on 28th, and then steadier numbers of up to seven at a total of 11 different sites by May 2nd. They were followed by flocks of up to 32 at Staines Res, 25 at Hilfield Park Res and 15 at Beddington SF before passage ended. Autumn produced low numbers, with about 45 from Aug 18th to Oct 16th, the latter a single at Beddington SF. All records are given.

Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, five on Apr 29th, also at Holyfield Marsh GP. KGV Res, one on Apr 29th, one on May 9th and two on May 12th. Rainham Marshes, 27 on Sept 8th.

- Herts Amwell GP, six on May 2nd, 15 on 3rd and one on 12th. Hilfield Park Res, two on Apr 25th, 29th and 30th; three on May 1st, two on 4th; 25 on 8th and one on 10th.
- Middx Brent Res, two on Apr 24th, six on 29th and two on May 1st. KGVI Res, four on May 9th. Queen Mary Res, one on Aug 18th. Ruislip Lido, one on Oct 13th. Staines Res, 14 on Apr 28th; eight on Apr 29th; six on May 1st; flocks of 32 and 20 on 3rd; parties of 30, ten and eight on 8th; and a single on Sept 30th. Wraysbury Res, two on Apr 25th and one on May 24th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, single on Apr 27th, two on May 1st, and four on 8th.
- Kent Northfleet, one on Oct 10th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, three on May 1st and 15 on 10th; one from Sept 17th-19th, two from 20th-23rd, plus singles on 24th and Oct 16th. Island Barn Res, two on Apr 23rd, singles on 25th and 28th, four on 29th, five on 30th; and five on May 4th. QE II Res, two on May 3rd and three on 8th. Walton Res, three on Apr 21st, two on 23rd, four on 30th; one on May 9th; and one on Oct 12th.

2003 Additional Record

- 0634 Common Guillemot** *Uria aalge*
Status: scarce visitor

In Lond Limehouse Reach, one on Sept 5th.

This may be the same bird that was seen further up the Thames at Fulham the following day.

- 0665 Feral Rock Dove** *Columbia livia*
Status: abundant breeding resident.

Maximum counts and main breeding concentrations (number of nesting pairs in brackets) are given below:

- Essex Barking Abbey, 310. Barking Park, 440. Barking Town Centre, 210. East Ham Town Centre, 180. Ilford Town Centre, 200. Rainham Marshes, 460. Romford Town Centre, 300. Valentines Park, Ilford, 650.
- Herts Letchmore Heath, 500 on rape stubble on Aug 30th. Theobalds Grove (47).
- Middx Brentford (10–20), in Brent Way. Feltham, 100+ birds present in High Street on June 1st, although main colony was destroyed during redevelopment later in the summer. Harlington, 345 on Sept 13th. Home Farm, Harmondsworth, 105 on Aug 17th. Isleworth (50–70), by the railway station. Mayfield, West Bedfont, 104 on Aug 24th. Sipson Streeters, 500 on Sept 6th. Staines (50), on Laleham Road Bridge. Sunbury Cross (20) on flyover, but colony destroyed through netting installed in Aug.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 267 on Sept 26th.
- Surrey Surbiton, Elmbridge Avenue, 100 on Sept 11th.
- In Lond Green Park, 100 on Sept 1st. Hyde Park and Kensington Gdns, 580 in Nov. Victoria Tower Gardens, 50 on Feb 19th.

- 0668 Stock Dove** ***Columba oenas***
 Status: breeding resident and passage migrant.
- The largest concentrations of breeding pairs (with the number of pairs or singing birds shown in brackets), as well of some of the largest flocks, are given.
- Essex Bedfords Park (6). Brentwood, 70 at Mascalls Lane on Feb 8th. Grange Waters, 19 on Oct 24th. Havering CP (7). Ingrebourne Valley, 35 on Nov 26th. Pages Farm, 16 on 21st Feb. Rainham Marshes, 160 on Sept 12th. Royal Docks, 25 on Nov 4th. Wanstead Park (17). Weald CP (9).
- Herts Beech Farm, 70 on Sept 25th. Brookmans Park, 90 on Feb 21st and Sept 27th. Coopers Green GP, 30 on Sept 22nd. Coursers Lane Fields, 75 on May 30th. Lynsters Farm, 110 on Jan 2nd. North Mymms Park, 55 on Feb 28th and Nov 4th. Rye Meads RSPB (9), 200 on Oct 19th. Tyttenhanger, 76 on May 30th.
- Middx Home Farm, Harmondsworth, 25 on Aug 2nd. Saxon Lake, Harmondsworth CP, 40 on Sept 12th. Staines Moor, 60 on May 3rd.
- Bucks Shredding Green Farm, 80 on Jan 21st and 116 on Feb 25th.
- Kent Ruxley GP, 150 on Feb 8th. Sevenoaks WR, 51 on Jan 17th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 62 on Mar 7th. Bookham Common (5). Walton Res, 40 on June 15th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (1). Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens (4–5). Regent's Park (12).

- 0670 Woodpigeon** ***Columba palumbus***
 Status: abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Large counts from the beginning of the year included 500 at Colney Heath, on Feb 15th, 500 at the West Hyde on Feb 16th, 1000 at Beddlestead Valley on Jan 21st and another 1000 at Beddlestead Farm on Mar 1st. At the end of the year, there were 500 at Tyttenhanger Farm on Oct 17th and 500 on emerging rape at Otterspool on Oct 30th.

Details of the late autumn movements over the region are given below, summarising the counts when over 1,000 birds were seen. Typically the highest reports were over Surrey, with most birds moving between S and SW.

| <i>Date</i> | <i>No of sites</i> | <i>Total count</i> | <i>Details of highest count</i> |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| Oct 26 | 1 | 5550 | London Wetland Centre, 5500 (RK, DMk, WN) |
| Oct 27 | 9 | 6963 | Rainham Marshes, 3750 (RSPB) |
| Oct 30 | 5 | 3947 | Hogsmill River, 1437 (PBw) |
| Nov 5 | 3 | 3392 | London Wetland Centre, 2240 (RK, RG) |
| Nov 6 | 3 | 2574 | Hogsmill River, 1109 (PBw) |
| Nov 13 | 4 | 1330 | Rye Meads RSPB, 600 (RMRG) |

- 0684 Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
 Status: common breeding resident.
- Still a very common species in the outer suburbs, but which becomes increasingly less so as one approaches the centre of London and largely absent towards the inner zone. Records given below are the largest counts, those on the edge of the normal range of occurrence, and reports of breeding (number of pairs or singing birds in brackets).
- Essex Havering-atte-Bowe CP (12). Holyfield Hall Farm, 300 on Nov 15th and 100 on Dec 7th. Valentines Park, 242 on Dec 9th.
- Herts Blackbirds SF, 70 on Oct 10th. Bowyer's GP (2). Cheshunt, (9) west of A10. Rye Meads RSPB (3). Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross, 90 on Nov 23rd and 300+ in old orchard on Nov 28th.
- Middx Home Farm, Harmondsworth, 66 on Aug 17th and 30 on Aug 24th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 28 on Sept 25th. Greenhithe, 16 in village on Dec 19th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 25 on Jan 20th. Chessington, 33 in Green Lane on Aug 24th. Hogsmill River, 28 on Feb 22nd. Nork, 60 on Nov 30th. Wimbledon Common (4).
- In Lond Tate Modern, one on May 5th (DGDL).

- 0687 Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*
 Status: localised breeding summer resident and passage migrant.
- Breeding reports came from Essex, Herts, Surrey and Kent. Elsewhere there were few sightings, and none at all in Inner London. All possible breeding records are given (with the number of pairs or singing males given in brackets) as well as a summary of other sightings. The first record was on Apr 24th at Rye Meads and the last was at Beddington SF on Sept 25th.
- Essex Ingrebourne Valley (3). Singles elsewhere at Fishers Green on May 18th, Great Mollands Pit on April 28th, Holyfield Hall Farm on May 5th and KGV Res on April 26th.
- Herts Amwell GP (3). Bricket Wood Common (1). Frogmore GP, Radlett (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1). Also sightings from eight other sites, including four at Rye Meads RSPB on May 1st and four at Essendon on May 23rd.
- Middx Singles in May at Brent Res on 2nd and 15th; at Middlesex FBs on 12th; Staines Moor on 3rd; Tottenham Marsh on 2nd; at Vicarage Farm on 20th; and at Wormwood Scrubs on 11th.
- Bucks Singles at Horton GP on May 27th, Queen Mother Res on May 21st and Wraysbury GP on May 11th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh (1). One at Lullingstone Lake on June 27th.
- Surrey Limpsfield Chart (2). Tooting Common (1). Also sightings from eight other sites, including four at London Wetland Centre on May 14th and singles at Beddington SF on four occasions and Island Barn Res on two occasions.

0712 Ring-necked Parakeet***Psittacula krameri***

Status: naturalised breeding resident, increasing in range and numbers.

Records for this species are now being seen over a wider area than ever before. In addition to the main roost at Hersham, increasing numbers are now well established in west London and at Hampstead Heath, and in the northwest more birds are now being seen regularly further north than previously. There has been a large expansion of the numbers crossing into Herts, and Bucks to a lesser extent, but sightings in Essex dropped in this year. The following includes all breeding records and a summary for each county.

- Essex Reported from nine sites, a pair bred at Corbets Tey.
- Herts Reported from 13 sites, several singles but increasingly seen in larger groups. Cassiobury Park had 11 on Nov 11th, whilst 40 were seen over Stocker's Lake on Nov 3rd.
- Middx Reported from 28 sites. Bushy Park, several pairs on territory, 90 on Jan 27th. Hanwell, 350 were seen leaving poplars near Elthorne Park on Aug 26th, evidence of increased roosting here this year. Hounslow, a pair prospecting by Piccadilly Line. KGV Res, 477 flew SE in small groups on Nov 14th.
- Bucks Reported from 11 sites. Denham, 26 on Sept 15th. Horton GP, 62 on Dec 18th. Wraybury GP, 130 on Sept 25th.
- Kent Reported from 12 sites. Albany Park, 25 on Aug 11th and Oct 6th. Bexley Wood, 70+ on July 20th and Aug 13th. Fooks Cray Meadows, 30 on Dec 12th. Fooks Cray Woods, a pair with young at nest hole in May. Wilmington, 50 on June 10th.
- Surrey Reported from 55 sites. Cannon Hill Common, one pair bred. Cobham, 32 in a garden in June. Croydon, up to 18 in a garden in Feb. Ewell, two nests located. Hersham, 3,000 were in the roost at Esher RFC on Nov 14th. Hogsmill River, at least four nest holes in use and 52 flying west on Dec 5th. Horton CP, one pair bred. Molesey Heath, three territories. Penton Hook, 500 over the island on June 29th. Richmond Park, a pair at nest hole on Apr 27th. Sanderstead, a pair potentially prospecting for nest on Mar 20th. Shirley, 100 over Greenway Gardens in November. Thames Ditton, 200 flew to Esher roost on Jan 21st.
- In Lond Reported from five sites but no breeding records. The peak count was 20 at Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens on Dec 4th.

0724 Cuckoo***Cuculus canorus***

Status: breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first birds of the spring were at Rye Meads RSPB and Tyttenhanger GP on April 11th; by Apr 20th, records had been seen at 17 sites. During the spring and summer there were nine in Essex, 21 in Herts, one in Middx, two in Bucks, two in Kent and eight in Surrey. There were at least three singing males at Rye Meads RSPB, two at Nazeing GP, and two at Vicarage Farm; 'several' were calling at Amwell GP. An immature was seen on Bricket Wood Common on July 27th, and a brood reported from one territory at Beddington SF on June 1st.

Most birds had gone by the middle of June, and there were only seven records from four sites in July, followed by singles in August at Rye Meads on 5th, Tyttenhanger GP on 7th and 15th, and from Bushy Park on 21st. The final report of the year was from Beddington SF on Sept 13th (BBR).

- 0735 Barn Owl** ***Tyto alba***
 Status: rare breeding resident.
- Observed mainly in Hertfordshire and no sightings at all for Middx, Kent or Bucks. Only three confirmed breeding pairs in the London area. A very slight upturn from last year, but still very low.
- Essex Site A, one pair present, but breeding not proven. Site B, single birds observed on five dates between Oct 30th and Nov 14th. Site C, two birds present on Feb 5th.
- Herts Site D, recorded on 20 dates between Jan and Aug, with maximum count of two on Jan 26th. Site E, present all year, with one pair successfully fledging 3 young. Site F, bred successfully raising 5 young. Amwell, one on Mar 30th. Bencroft Wood, one on Mar 17th. Hatfield Park, one on Nov 10th. Hertford Heath, single birds seen on May 14th and June 1st. High Leigh, one on Mar 17th. Maple Cross, single bird on July 13th. Smallford, singles on May 19th and June 26th. Stanborough Lakes, one on Jan 17th.
- Surrey Ewell, single on June 18th.
- 0757 Little Owl** ***Athene noctua***
 Status: localised breeding resident.
- Reported at 63 localities during the year (compared with 91 in 2003); nine in Essex, 20 in Herts, nine in Middx, two in Bucks, two in Kent, 20 in Surrey and one in Inner London. About 14 pairs were present or on territory during the summer months (compared with about 29 in 2003) and are given below (all records are of single pairs unless stated).
- Herts Brookmans Park; Haberdashers Girls School; Hertford Heath; Hilfield Park Res; North Mymms Park; Tyttenhanger GP.
- Middx Bushy Park; Uxbridge; Vicarage Farm.
- Kent Dartford Marsh.
- Surrey Cannon Hill Common (2); Island Barn Res; Prince George PF; Trevereux area.
- In Lond Regent's Park, a lone bird was joined by a second bird in Jan but no proof of breeding was observed.

- 0761 Tawny Owl** ***Strix aluco***
 Status: common breeding resident.

Recorded at 72 sites, which is slightly more than last year and may reflect a possible halt in the reduction of this species noted over the past few years.

Birds were present in 33 sites during breeding period (Herts 10, Kent 1, Middx 5, Surrey 16, Inner London, 2) however, confirmed breeding was only reported from six sites and one of these nests was abandoned.

- 0767 Long-eared Owl *Asio otus***
 Status: winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers, rare breeder.
 Recorded at only five sites and only one confirmed breeding record this year. This species is in danger of losing its breeding status in the LNHS area.
- Essex Dagenham Chase, one seen on Jan 13th (LH). Rainham Marshes, singles on Jan 17th (DMn) and Feb 14th (RKr).
- Kent One pair bred raising two young.
- Surrey Ashted Common, one seen on June 9th (ADs). London Wetland Centre, one on Oct 19th (RK) and singles on five dates between Nov 3rd and Nov 21st (AS *et al*).
- 0768 Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus***
 Status: winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers, rare in summer.
 Recorded at 17 sites during the year, with the majority of observations relating to the latter part of the year. The two most regular sites were Rainham Marshes and Hatfield Aerodrome, however, no more than three birds were observed at any one time at these sites.
- Essex Fairlop Waters, one on Oct 15th (AAB) and two on 18th and 30th (AAB, ELBF). Holyfield Waters, one on Oct 14th (LVPR). Rainham Marshes, observed between Oct 5th and Dec 26th, with maximum of three on Oct 6th, Nov 25th and Dec 5th (mo).
- Herts Beech Farm GP, one on Jan 25th (AI). Hatfield Aerodrome, observed between Jan 1st and May 1st, with a max of three on Jan 12th; and on 11 dates between Oct 15th and Dec 29th, with a max of two on Oct 15th and 16th (mo). Panshanger Aerodrome, one on Dec 12th (TWG). Tyttenhanger GP, singles on Feb 28th (IWs) and Nov 7th (RPh).
- Middx Single birds observed at the following sites; Brent Res, Sept 23rd (ASMS); Broadwater Lake, Feb 28th (AVM); Hampstead Heath, Oct 1st (WEO); Hounslow Heath, Dec 26th (CS); Staines Moor, Oct 16th and Nov 2nd (REI).
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, one being mobbed by gulls on Sept 30th (CDRH).
- Surrey Single birds observed at the following sites; Beddington SF, on five dates between Oct 12th and Nov 21st (mo). Island Barn Res, Oct 24th (DMH). London Wetland Centre, Sept 26th (RK *et al*). QE II Res, Nov 2nd (DMH).

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Pochard *Aythya ferina* is a nationally scarce breeding species which nests in small numbers annually in London. This female and chicks were photographed at Brent Reservoir in June. (Andrew Self)



Above: Common Scoters *Melanitta nigra* occasionally appear in the Area London on passage, with this drake and two females pitching in at Brent Reservoir on 18 April. (Andrew Self)



Above right: this smart summer-plumaged Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* was present at Wraysbury GP in April. (Andrew Moon)

Right: a fly-over Gannet *Morus bassanus* at Beddington SF on the last day of 2003 provided a rare opportunity to see this species in the London Area. (Johnny Allan)





For the second consecutive year birders had the chance to catch up with White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* in the London Area. This well-twitched individual was photographed in Uxbridge on 3 July. (Andrew Self)

Sparrowhawks *Accipiter nisus* have become a familiar sight in many parts of London in recent years, including urban areas close to the centre. This adult male was photographed in a Stoke Newington garden. (Mike Trier)



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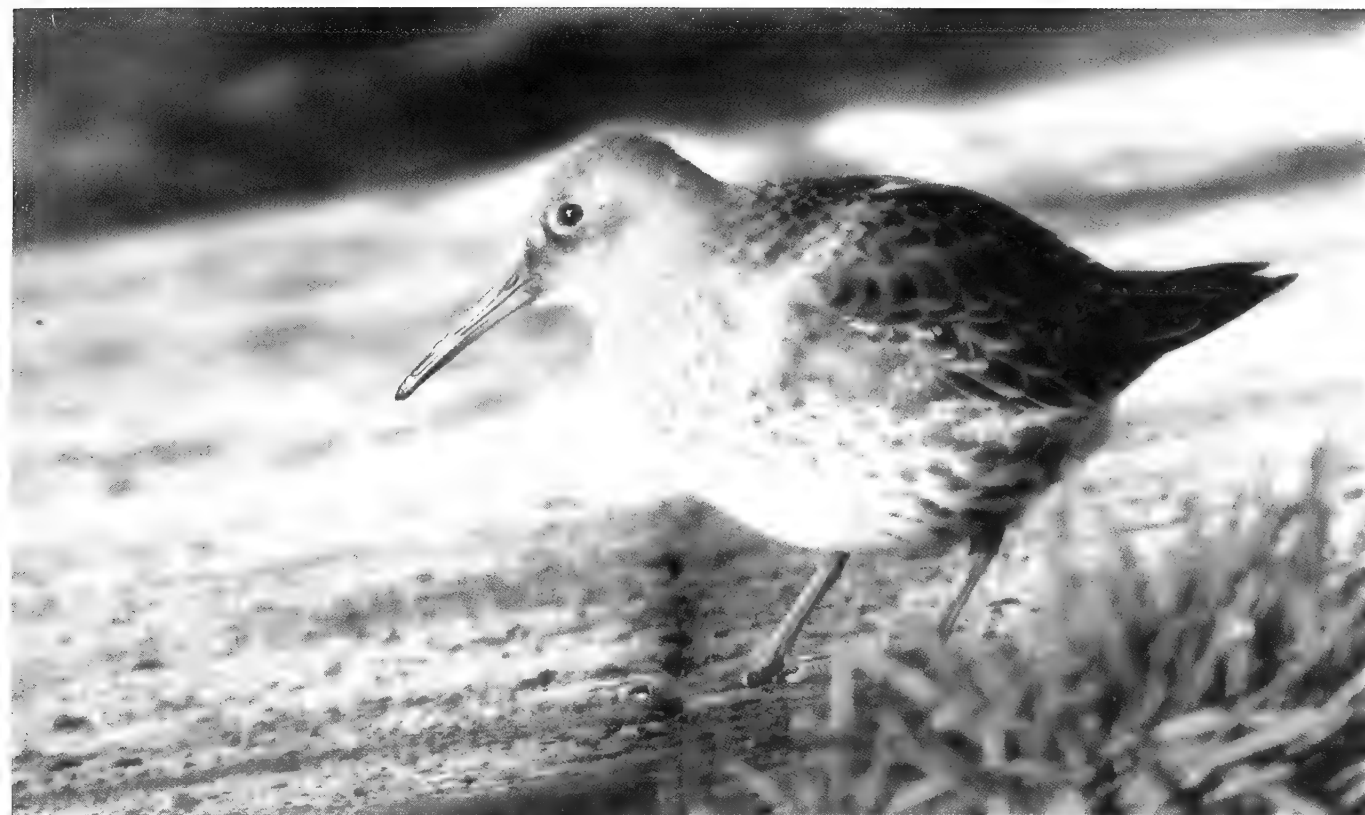


Above: Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa* were logged at a number of sites in the London Area on migration. This juvenile was photographed at Staines Reservoirs in late August. (Andrew Moon)

Left: among a number of interesting wader species recorded at Beddington SF, in the Surrey sector, was this juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*, photographed in October 2003. (Peter Alfrey)



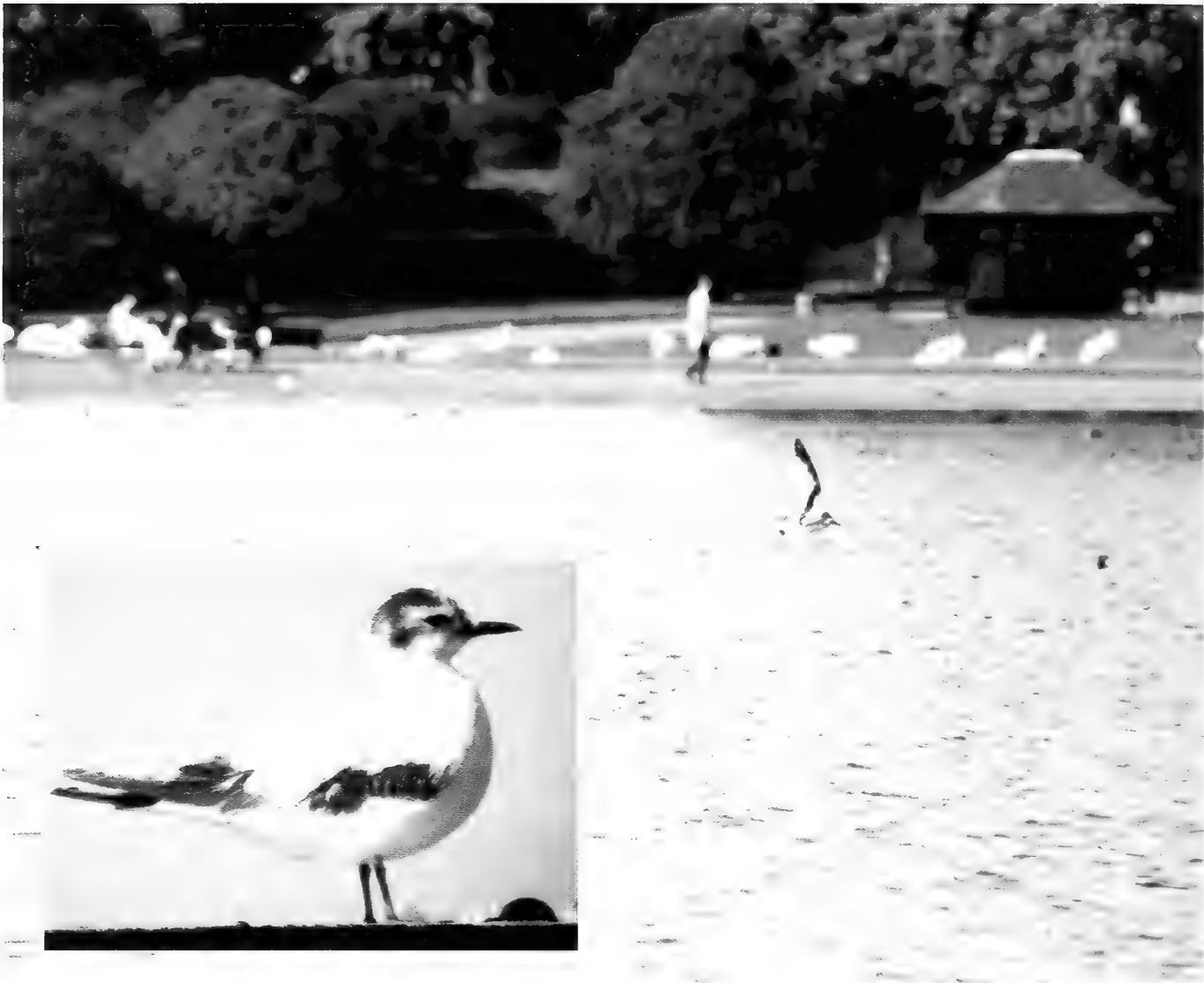
Although Beddington SF is not located on an obvious flyway such as a river valley, its attraction to migrants is obvious. The site's shorebird line-up also included this juvenile Little Stint *Calidris minutus*. (Peter Alfrey)



London appearances of typically coastal waders such as Purple Sandpiper often come from the major reservoir complexes. This bird was photographed at Queen Elizabeth II Reservoir on 25 October. (*Dave Harris*)



Still retaining much of its smart black and orange breeding plumage, this adult Turnstone was an unexpected midsummer find well inland, again at Queen Elizabeth II Reservoir, on 29 July. (*Dave Harris*)



The migration of Little Gulls *Larus minutus* through the London Area is a feature of both spring and autumn passage, though numbers vary from year to year. Main photo: discovered on 18 September, the week-long stay of this juvenile at the Round Pond, Kensington Gardens, was exceptional. (*Marie Gill*). Inset: a first-summer bird pauses its spring migration at King George VI Reservoir on 23 May. (*Andrew Moon*)



Northern Wheatears *Oenanthe oenanthe* are one of the first signs of spring migration in the London Area, with passage occurring from March to May. This male was at Stocker's Farm on 1 May. (*Andrew Moon*)



Alexandra Park has established itself as a site likely to produce Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* on spring passage. This bird was photographed there on 24 April. (*Andrew Gardener*)



Left: the capital's first Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* was found at Fairlop Waters in January. It stayed until 25 April, allowing many birders to add the species to their London lists. (*Reston Kilgour*)

Inset below: perhaps more than other London Area rarities, Wrynecks *Jynx torquilla* often appear in gardens. This one was at Addiscombe, near Croydon. (*Stan Goron*)



Aside from its good track record for waterbirds, Beddington SF is easily also the capital's foremost site for Tree Sparrows. In 2004 there were 81 territories, with 145 nesting attempts and 548 pulli hatching. (*Peter Alfrey*)

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Lesser Redpoll has declined both nationally and locally as a breeding species, with the number of pairs in the capital falling by as much as 90 per cent during the 1980s and 1990s. In recent years there have been few breeding records, but the species is regular in small numbers in winter. This male was photographed in a Muswell Hill garden. (*Andrew Gardener*)



A very rare visitor to the London Area, the total number of Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* records between 1900 and 2003 was just 22, though four birds – including this one in September at Sewardstone – were seen in the latter year alone. (*Andrew Middleton*)



- 0778 European Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*
 Status: rare breeding summer visitor and rare passage migrant.
 A very poor year, with only one record of a churring male at a site in Bucks, between July 25th and 30th. This species may now have bred in London for the last time.
- 2003 Additional Record**
 Essex Epping Forest, one churring on May 17–18th (MS).
- 0795 Common Swift** *Apus apus*
 Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.
 The first record for the season was a very early one, with 30 birds at Danson Park on Apr 6th followed by one at Sevenoaks WR on Apr 11th. The next was at the Wetland Centre on Apr 15th, but the majority of first sightings came towards the end of the month. Most final dates range from around the end of August through to the beginning of September. There were a number of later records, including in October, four at New Malden on 1st, singles at Silvertown on 13th and the Wetland Centre on 15th with the last being three at Sevenoaks WR on 24th.
 Largest counts included: Hilfield Res, 600 on Apr 29th; Island Barnes Res, 850 on Apr 28th and 30th and 1000 on May 1st; London Wetland Centre, 500 on Apr 28th and July 11th; Staines Res, 500 on Apr 28th and 29th, 1500 on May 8th, 500 on June 18th, 800 June 22nd, 1000 on June 23rd and July 3rd, and 500 on July 4th and 10th; Tottenham Marsh, 500 on May 3rd,
 Breeding records were only supplied for 13 locations throughout the London region, including 65 pairs at Chingford, 60 pairs at Dagenham and 21 pairs at Harold Wood.
- 0798 Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*
 Status: vagrant.
 Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Oct 17th at 11.25, drifting NW (RK, RG).
 Accepted by BBRC, this is the 18th record for the London Area.
- 0831 Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*
 Status: breeding resident, locally common in some areas.
 Breeding records or evidence of breeding came from only 18 sites: Essex (1), Herts (7), Bucks (2), Kent (1), Middx (4), Surrey (3), compared to 36 last year. However, there were a number of other sites, which held multiple numbers of birds during the nesting season and so it is most likely that many more areas held breeding pairs.

- 0846 Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*
 Status: vagrant.
 Essex Rainham Marshes, one on Apr 27th (KB *et al*).
- 0848 Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*
 Status: scarce passage migrant, usually in autumn.
 Middx Vicarage Farm, one on Aug 29th (RMC).
 Bucks Queen Mother Res, one on Sep 9th (CDRH).
 Surrey Croydon, one on Aug 25th (SGn).
- 0856 Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*
 Status: common breeding resident.
 Recorded at 106 sites, this is very much down on last year's 152 and 2002's 171 sites. It is possible that as this species becomes a more familiar and therefore regularly seen bird, people are not sending in records. Breeding was confirmed or suspected at 27 sites, with these sites mainly containing one or two pairs. However, it is almost certain that breeding is much more extensive than the records suggest.
 Below are the sites where breeding was recorded and, in brackets, the number of pairs/territories.
 Essex Ingrebourne Valley (9).
 Herts Amwell (1). Bishops Wood CP (1). Bricket Wood (1). Cheshunt GP (2). Cheshunt South Res (1). Hilfield Park Res (2). Panshanger Park (3). Prae Wood (1). Rickmansworth (1). Rye Meads RSPB (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1).
 Middx Brent Res (1). Enfield (1). Oakwood Park (1). Trent Park (1). Vicarage Farm (1).
 Kent Dartford Marsh (1). Foots Cray Wood (2). Ruxley GP (1).
 Surrey Arbrook Common (3). Bookham Common (10 in Plains area). Cannon Hill Common (1). Esher Common (2). London Wetland Centre (1). Molesey Heath (3). Prince Georges PF (1). R. Hogsmill (Riverside OS) (2). R. Mole, Leatherhead (5). The Ledges, Esher (1). Tooting Common (1). Wansdworth Common (1). West End Common (3). Wimbledon Common (1).
- 0876 Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*
 Status: common breeding resident.
 Recorded at 133 sites, which is virtually the same as last year. Distribution is very similar to that of Green Woodpecker. Breeding was confirmed or suspected at 58 sites, although it is most probably the case that this species is much more abundant than records indicate.
 Below are sites where high territory numbers were observed.
 Essex Wanstead Park (8). Weald CP (7).

- Herts Bowyers GP (3). Cheshunt GP (3). Oxhey Wood (3). Whippendell Woods (4).
 Middx Alexandra Park (5), Forty Hall (5), Grovelands Park (5), Trent Park (8).
 Kent Fooks Cray Woods (3).
 Surrey Arbrook Common (7). Bookham Common (14 in lower half). West End Common (7). Wimbledon Common (19).
 In Lond Hyde Park (1). Regent's Park (6). St James's Park (1).

0887 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker***Dendrocopos minor***

Status: no longer common breeding resident, having suffered rapid declines in recent years.

An increasingly difficult species to observe, due to a large decline in recent years. Although numbers appear to have stabilised in most areas, Essex showed a sharp reduction in the number of sightings (see table below).

| | Essex | Herts | Middx | Bucks | Kent | Surrey | in Lond | Totals |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|---------|--------|
| 2001 | 35 | 7 | 14 | 0 | 11 | 20 | 0 | 87 |
| 2002 | 21 | 15 | 16 | 2 | 5 | 18 | 0 | 77 |
| 2003 | 22 | 17 | 16 | 3 | 2 | 24 | 1 | 85 |
| 2004 | 10 | 19 | 14 | 0 | 3 | 22 | 0 | 68 |

The majority of sightings relate to winter dates. Only 19 sites recorded birds present during the breeding season (see below), of which only three confirmed breeding.

- Essex Wanstead Park.
 Herts Amwell, Brookman's Park, Cassiobury Park, Garston, Haberdasher's Girls School, Maple Lodge NR, Tyttenhanger GP.
 Middx Brent Res, Bushy Park, Grovelands Park, Horsenden Hill, Trent Park.
 Kent Foot's Cray Meadows, Sevenoaks WR.
 Surrey Beddington SF, Bookham Common, Carshalton, Coulsdon, Tooting Common, Wimbledon Common.

0974 Woodlark***Lullula arborea***

Status: scarce passage migrant and recently re-established rare breeder.

- Essex Epping Forest, one at Copped Hall in early October (AMi).
 Surrey Site A, two on Feb 18th, five on Mar 7th and then 1–2 regularly until May 31st, with three singing on June 25th; five juveniles reported to have been raised. Site B, two on Feb 12th and then regularly to Apr 26th, with two pairs on June 1st and again on July 1st, when also one juvenile (APe). Banstead Heath, one singing on June 12th (SJW). Broom Bank Quarry, one on Oct 21st (BJT).

A better year than 2003 for breeding, with juveniles observed at two sites in Surrey.

0976 Skylark***Alauda arvensis***

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Flocks of over 40 outside the breeding season were noted at 13 sites. The highest counts were at the start of the year, with 180 at Coursers Farm and 100 at Rushett Farm, both on Jan 3rd. There were 52 at Coursers Lane Fields on Jan 24th, 40 at Pages Farm on Jan 27th and 40 at Beeches Farm on Mar 13th. Flocks of 50–75 were recorded at Tyttenhanger GP from the start of the year until early March. At the end of the year there were 58 at Grange Waters on Nov 21st and 42 at Crayford Marsh on Dec 26th.

In the autumn migration period, six counts of flocks of 40 or more were noted. The first of these was 50 at Rainham Marsh on Sept 9th, followed by 40 at Staines Moor on Sept 26th. There were 40 at Staines Res on Oct 6th, 50 at Rainham Marsh on Oct 11th, 54 at Ingrebourne Valley on Oct 14th and 50 at Beeches Farm on Oct 16th.

A summary of breeding records is given below (number of territories in brackets) but no direct comparison with previous years can be made as there was a lack of comparable data submitted this year.

| | |
|---------|---|
| Essex | Fairlop Waters (22). Hainault (25). Ingrebourne Valley (45). Pick Hill (2). Rainham Marshes (45). |
| Herts | Nine sites had singing birds. |
| Middx | Singing individuals only at Bushy Park and Stanmore CP. |
| Bucks | Woodlands Park GP, 32 on Jan 21st. |
| Kent | Singing birds at five sites including nine at Swanscombe Marsh. |
| Surrey | Singing birds at five sites, with four territories at Beddington SF. |
| In Lond | Regent's Park, one on Apr 16th, two on Oct 10th and 19th and one on Nov 2nd. |

0981 Sand Martin***Riparia riparia***

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first record of the year was of nine birds on Mar 15th at Troy Mill GP, ten days later than last year. Thereafter there were sightings on every day in March, with high counts of 80 at Wraysbury GP on the 28th; and 100 and 500 at Amwell GP on the 29th and 31st. In April, over 100 birds were recorded at six sites: 112 at Amwell on 4th; 110 and 160 at Island Barn Res on 15th and 27th; 100 and 150 at Sevenoaks WR on 18th and 28th; 100 at Staines Res on 23rd; 100 at Walton Res on 28th; and 250 at Hilfield Park Res on 29th. In early May, 100 or more birds were present at Sevenoaks WR on two occasions and at both Island Barn Res and Walton Res.

Sizeable post-breeding flocks were reported from four sites. At Sevenoaks WR there were 150 on June 19th and 100 on June 23rd. Staines Res produced counts of at least 100 on nine occasions with the highest being 420 on July 4th, 350 on July 3rd and 277 on June 23rd. In August, 100 were recorded on both the 15th and the 19th at Staines Res and 100 at Ruislip Lido on the 24th. The last, and impressive, high count of the year was 300 at Sevenoaks WR on Sept 20th. There were half a dozen records of small

numbers during the rest of September and four in October, ending with eight at the Wetland Centre on Oct 14th.

Details of the 10 breeding colonies are shown below (in brackets), and also Inner London sightings. No information was received from five of the ten colonies reported in 2003, which makes comparisons hard, but there were records from four sites that were not included last year.

- Essex Chafford Hundred (20, 25 in 2003). R. Roding, Barking (4, 3 in 2003). Walthamstow Res (12, 1 in 2003). Wennington (24, 15 in 2003).
- Herts Coursers Lane Fields (45).
- Surrey Beddington SF (2, 2 in 2003). Hogsmill SF (3). Kingston upon Thames (4). London Wetland Centre (10, 1 pair prospecting in 2003). Walton Res (86 completed nesting holes but all destroyed by foxes).
- In Lond Regent's Park, 1–2 on four dates. St. James's Park, one on Sept 14th.

0992 Swallow

Hirundo rustica

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

A lone bird at Dagenham Chase on Mar 20th was the first of the year with seven more records from six more sites during the rest of the month. Many sites recorded their first birds in the first three weeks of April, with the first double-figure counts being 10 at KGV Res on Apr 3rd. By Apr 11th, Tyttenhanger numbers were up to 50 and Brent Res numbers were up to 40. No larger numbers were reported until Apr 21st, when the first large influx of the year brought 580 birds to Island Barn Res, 80 at Amwell GP, 100 at Hilfield Park Res and 200 at both Staines Res and Beddington SF. A lull of a few days was followed by a large, sustained and widespread influx over the period of Apr 28th to May 3rd. By far the largest count in that period was of 1000–1500 birds at Seventy Acres Lake on Apr 29th and 30th. On Apr 28th other counts in the hundreds were 100 at Bury Lake, 100 at KGV Res, 273 at the Wetland Centre and 100 at Richmond Park. On Apr 29th, there were 600 at Holyfield Marsh GP, 250 at Hilfield Park Res and 100 at Staines Res. In the first three days of May, Tyttenhanger GP, Brent Res, KGV Res, Staines Res, Tottenham Marsh, Beddington SF and Walton Res each had one record of 100–300 birds. Numbers generally then dropped fairly steadily, although there were 140 birds at Rye Meads RSPB on May 5th and a burst on May 12th at three sites, with Island Barn Res recording 200, Beddington SF 40 and the R. Hogsmill (Riverside OS) at least 50 heading downstream.

The large gatherings of the return migration were much later than in 2003, with most of them from mid-September onwards rather than late August. The only earlier records were of 250 birds at Bishops Wood GP on Aug 10th; 150 at Havering CP on Aug 31st; 100 at Tylers Common on Sept 5th; 115 at Beech Farm GP and 450 at Regent's Park on Sept 19th; and 110 at Rainham Marshes on Sept 20th. The peak migration began on Sept 24th with 185 birds at North Mymms Park; followed by 200 at Staines Res and Regent's Park and 122 at the Wetland Centre on Sept 25th; 200 at Wraysbury GP on 27th; 380 at the Wetland Centre on 28th; 225 in the Trevereaux area on 29th; and 100 at Hampstead Heath and 194 at the Wetland Centre on Oct 2nd. Thereafter

records were almost all in single figures but there was one late large record of 60 birds at Holyfield Hall Farm on Oct 18th. The stragglers amounted to 13 birds at 10 sites, ending with a lone November record of one bird over Paddington Green on Nov 4th.

Locations of nesting birds, with numbers in brackets, and Inner London sightings were as follows:

- Herts Brickendonbury (2). Tyttenhanger GP (several).
 Middx Bentley Priory (5), Totteridge (1 probable).
 Surrey Chasemoor Farm (Downside). Garsons/Winterhouse Farm (10). Trevereux (2 probable).
 In Lond Battersea Bridge and Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens provided the only spring records, while the autumn added Oval, Paddington Green, St James's Park and Waterloo Bridge. The highest count was 450 at Regent's Park on Sept 19th.

1001 House Martin

Delichon urbicum

Status: common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

One at Dagenham Chase on Feb 9th appears to be the earliest ever in London. The next arrival wasn't until the last day of March at Amwell GP, followed by 20 birds at twelve sites in the first five days of April. The first double-figure sightings were on Apr 17th and from then to the 21st, there were double-figure records at nine sites, with the highest counts being 50 at Island Barn Res on the 18th, 54 at the Wetland Centre on the 19th and 50 at Weybridge on the 21st; the first three-figure record was 100 at Beddington SF on Apr 21st. The real influx of the season began on Apr 28th, when there were 125 at Verulamium Lake, 100 at Brent Res, 100 at KGVI Res and 200 at Beddington SF. The next day saw 100 at Holyfield Marsh GP and 150 at Brent Res, and on Apr 30th there were 120 at Tyttenhanger GP and 100 at Sevenoaks WR. Counts of 100 plus continued into the first few days of May both at some of the aforementioned sites and also at Purley, with 100 on the 1st, and at Hampton Waterworks with 100 on the 5th.

The first big record of autumn was 250 birds at Bishop's Wood CP on Aug 10th. Next came 300 at Staines Res on Aug 16th; 120 at Essendon and 100 at Hilfield Park Res on 22nd; 135 at the Wetland Centre on 27th; 120 at Essendon on 29th; and 180 at Brent Res on 30th. In the first ten days of September the only high counts were 312 at the Wetland Centre on the 2nd, 300 at Thorndon CP on Sept 4th and 200 at Brookmans Park on the 7th. From Sept 10th to 19th, nine sites produced counts in the hundreds, of which the highest were: 500 at Rye Meads on the 15th; 700 at Staines on the 17th; 550 at the Wetland Centre on the 14th; 300 at Hampstead Heath on Sept 17th; and 510 at Brent Res and 250 at Regent's Park on the 19th. In the rest of the month, there were big counts at nine sites, with 1500 at Staines Res on 20th; 1300 at the Wetland Centre on Sept 21st; 1000 at Walthamstow Res on 22nd; 1000 at Staines Res on 25th; and 1520 at the Wetland Centre on Sept 26th. The latter site had 1490 on Oct 2nd and 100–200 on most days until Oct 10th. Other counts in the hundreds in early October were at Hilfield Park Res,

Tyttenhanger GP, Forest Hill, Brent Res and Beddington SF, which had a notable 500 on Oct 14th. The next two days produced the last of the double figure counts of the year and the last record was of two birds at Seventy Acres Lake on Oct 24th.

Nesting records, with numbers in brackets, and notable Inner London records follow. Three recorders noted a decrease in breeding numbers from 2003.

- Essex Chingford (49). Walthamstow FB (43). Warren Gorge (28).
 Herts Cassiobury Park (10). Chiswell Green (several). Radlett (2). Sarratt Mill.
 Middx Feltham (30–40).
 Kent Bexley (3). Littlebrook PS (several). Lullingstone Castle (5+).
 Surrey Berrylands (2). Bookham Common (2). Epsom (4). Garsons/ Winterhouse Farm (59). Hackbridge (36). Sutton (55).
 In Lond Battersea Bridge area (6). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (13). Birds were seen in Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns from May 3rd to Sept 25th, with 200 from Sept 19th to 21st and 120 on Sept 25th. St James's Park, 100 on Sept 17th and 70 on 25th. Lambeth Bridge, 12 on May 4th.

1002 Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*
 Status: rare visitor

- Middx Staines Moor, one on Dec 11th (REI *et al*).
 The 22nd record for London and the first December record.

1009 Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*
 Status: passage migrant and decreasing breeding summer visitor.

All records are given.

- Essex Barking Park, one on Aug 17th. Dagenham Chase, one on Apr 12th. Epping Forest, four territories at four sites. Fairlop Waters, singles on Apr 29th and May 2nd. Hainault Forest CP, one on Oct 2nd. Havering CP, one on Sept 6th. Rainham Marshes, two on Sept 29th. Thorndon CP, one on May 14th. Tylers Common, one on Aug 21st. Walthamstow Marsh, one on Apr 23rd. Weald CP, three on May 3rd and one on 4th and 6th.
 Herts North Mymms Park, two singing on May 9th and one on 15th. Symondshyde Great Wood, one singing on May 29th. Beech Farm GP, two over on Oct 9th.
 Middx Alexandra Park, one over on Apr 28th. Hampstead Heath, one on Sept 8th.
 Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on May 3rd and two over on Aug 31st. Headley Heath, singles on May 13th and 16th. There were no records from Limpsfield Chart for the "first time ever".
 In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Sept 17th and 25th (ARD, DJ).

1011 Meadow Pipit***Anthus pratensis***

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor and common but localised breeder.

The only sizeable record at the start of the year was 60 at Yeading Brook Meadows on Feb 14th. Spring passage was evident by the middle of March with 100 over Pages Farm, Upminster on 23rd, and in full swing in the second week of April with 80 birds at Tyttenhanger GP and 56 at London Wetland Centre on the 8th, and 128 at Rye Meads and 54 at North Mymms Park on the 9th, followed by 120 over KGV Res on 23rd. The highest counts of autumn migration occurred between Sept 15th and Oct 10th. Records of 200–250 birds came from London Wetland Centre on Sept 15th and 16th and again on Oct 17th, from Queen Mother Res and Rainham Marshes on Sept 26th and from Beech Farm GP on Oct 9th. Sizeable records towards the end of the year were 55 at Staines Moor on Nov 2nd, 60 at Beech Farm GP on Nov 6th, 50 in Richmond Park on Dec 3rd and c50 at Rainham Marshes on Dec 5th.

Nesting/territorial records, which are shown with numbers in brackets, and Inner London records follow. Nesting records were either considerably fewer or less reported (or both) than in 2003.

- Essex Abbots Langley (1). Beech Farm GP (3–4). Ingrebourne Valley (32). Rainham Marshes (38).
- Herts Bricket Wood Common (1). Cole Green (1). Hatfield Garden Village (1). Leavesden Park (1). Rye Meads RSPB (1). Sarratt Mill (1). Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross (a few).
- Middx Bushy Park (3). Lake Farm (5). Staines Moor (1). Wormwoods Scrubs (4–5).
- Surrey Molesey Heath (1).
- In Lond Battersea Bridge, two on Mar 3rd and singles on Sept 6th, 9th and 20th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, four on Sept 25th. Regent's Park, peaks of 170 on Sept 17th and 200 on 19th. St James's Park, eight on Oct 13th, singles on Sept 9th and Oct 27th. Tate Modern, singles on Mar 22nd, Apr 4th and 13th.

1014 Rock Pipit***Anthus petrosus***

Status: passage migrant and winter visitor.

As in 2003, Rainham and Swancombe Marshes records dominated the first three months of the year and Rainham the last three, see table below:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Rainham | 14 | 12 | 23 | 14 | 21 | 23 |
| Swanscombe | 11 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 3 |

Records from other sites are shown below and, as usual, they are mainly from the last three months of the year.

- Essex Becton SW, singles on Jan 4th and Feb 11th. Creekmouth, Barking, singles on Oct 1st and 23rd, Dec 18th and 30th. North Woolwich, one on Dec 18th. Purfleet, one on Oct 23rd. Walthamstow Res, two on Jan 3rd, four on Oct 10th and one on 17th. West Thurrock, one on Dec 30th.
- Herts Waltham Cross, one on Sept 29th.

- Middx Brent Res, singles on Mar 3rd and 23rd. Staines Res, one on Nov 3rd-4th. Wraysbury Res, one on Oct 16th.
- Bucks Queen Mother Res, singles on Mar 12th and 29th, Sept 30th, Oct 9th, 10th, 15th, 16th and 19th and Dec 11th, with two on Oct 15th and 20th.
- Kent Greenhithe, two on Nov 21st and Dec 19th. Northfleet, one on Nov 2nd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, singles on Mar 8th-9th, Oct 10th, 12th, 17th, and most days from 21st to 26th, and again on Nov 7th. Island Barn Res, singles on Mar 14th-16th and Oct 10th. London Wetland Centre, one on five dates between Mar 9th and Apr 4th, with two on Mar 27th, four on Oct 19th and singles on Mar 18th, Oct 2nd, 9th, 26th and 29th, and again on Dec 10th. QE II Res, two on Oct 26th-27th, and singles on Sept 26th, Oct 9th, 16th, 22nd and 31st, and Nov 8th. Walton Res, singles on Sept 26th and 29th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Sept 28th and Oct 25th (ARD, DJ).

1015 Water Pipit***Anthus spinoletta***

Status: regular but localised winter visitor and passage migrant.

Three main sites accounted for the great majority of the records; the table below shows the monthly maxima at each of these sites.

| | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Essex | Rainham Marshes | 5 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Middx | Staines Moor | 13 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 12 | 5 | 8 |
| Surrey | Beddington SF | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 4 |

Elsewhere records were infrequent and irregular and many of them were in proximity to one of the sites above.

- Essex Ingrebourne Valley, one on Mar 21st. Walthamstow Res, one on Mar 21st.
- Herts Rye Meads RSPB, one on Mar 27th. Tyttenhanger GP, one on Sept 26th.
- Middx Brent Res, one on Apr 9th. KGV Res, up to five from Mar 17th-Apr 15th, and up to three from Oct 30th-Dec 12th. Stanwell Moor, singles on Mar 23rd and Dec 28th. Staines Res, 1-5 from Mar 16th-29th, and two on Nov 2nd, Dec 27th and 29th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, two on Oct 19th and one on 20th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on Apr 3rd. Swanscombe Marsh, singles on Jan 25th and Feb 1st, and two on Mar 6th.
- Surrey Island Barn Res, one on Apr 2nd and 3rd. London Wetland Centre, one in March and up to 11 in April.

1017 Yellow Wagtail***Motacilla flava***

Status: common passage migrant and decreasing breeder.

Unlike last year, there were several high counts in the spring, with all of them being between Apr 29th and May 1st, including impressive counts of 70 at Beddington SF and 60 at KGV Res on May 1st. Autumn passage was less notable, with flocks of more than 15 birds only being reported from three sites. Tyttenhanger GP produced the only (probable) breeding record, down from seven records at six sites last year. The first bird of the year was

recorded on Mar 23rd at Queen Mother Res, and the last on Nov 23rd at Danson Park. Flocks of over 10 and all Inner London records follow:

- Essex Fairlop Waters, 32 on Apr 29th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 20 on Sept 23rd. KGV Res, 60 on May 1st and 16 on 2nd. Rainham Marshes, 12 on Apr 15th and 21st, 37 on Aug 9th. Walthamstow Res, 13 on Apr 27th.
- Herts Hilfield Park Res, 16 on 4th, 29th and 30th Apr. Tyttenhanger GP, 25 on May 1st and 10 on 2nd.
- Middx KGV Res, 10 on Apr 9th, 20 on 30th and 32 on May 1st. Staines Moor, 22 on Sept 4th, 21 on 7th, 40 on 8th, 20 on 11th, 17 on 16th, 15 on 22nd and 13 on 26th. Staines Res, 13 on Apr 28th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 20 on Apr 28th, 70 on May 1st and 10 on 3rd. Island Barn Res, 18 on May 1st. London Wetland Centre, 17 on May 1st, 14 on 3rd, and 11 on Sept 21st. QE II Res, 26 on Sept 29th.
- In Lond Hyde Park, four on Aug 26th. Paddington Green, two on Aug 10th. Regent's Park, 1-2 on six dates and eight on Sept 16th.

Blue-headed Wagtail

M.f. flava

Records of birds showing characters of races other than *M. f. flavissima* are given below, all Blue-headed unless stated otherwise:

- Essex Fairlop Waters, one on Apr 29th. Fishers Green, one from May 12th-20th was a 'Channel Wagtail', a *flava* x *flavissima* hybrid (mo).
- Herts Tyttenhanger GP, one on Apr 24th and May 1st (SHM).
- Middx KGV Res, singles on Apr 27th (CL), May 1st (AVM, PN) and 16th (PN).
- Kent Belvedere PS, one on May 12th (GB).
- Surrey Beddington SF, one on May 1st (BBR). Island Barn Res, one on May 1st (DMH). London Wetland Centre, two on Apr 24th (NPS *et al*) and May 12th (RK) and one on May 28th (RK).

1019 Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

The number of sites where birds were present in the breeding season was encouragingly greater than last year (67 compared with 57) and just back within the range recorded since 1997. Evidence of breeding or probable breeding was recorded in about half of these sites.

Details are given below of the largest gatherings of birds in the autumn and winter months, and also all Inner London sightings.

- Herts Rye Meads RSPB, 20 on Aug 13th. Watford Link Road, 15 on Jan 4th and 17 on Nov 6th.
- Middx Stoke Newington Res, 10 on July 24th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 13 on Aug 22nd. London Wetland Centre, eight on Oct 7th. R. Hogsmill (Riverside OS), nine on Oct 11th.
- In Lond Battersea Bridge, a pair plus a male displaying on June 1st. Blackfriars Bridge, one on Nov 5th. Green Park, one on Sept 22nd and 27th. Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns, one on Aug 11th, two on Sept 25th, one on Oct 21st and

30th. Regent's Park, two pairs nested nearby. St James's Park, singles on nine dates between Sept 1st and Dec 2nd, with a family group of four on Sept 29th. Tate Modern, single birds on Feb 16th, Mar 18th, Apr 13th and 16th, and Aug 6th. Victoria Station, a pair during May. Westbourne Grove, a male singing on June 5th.

1020 Pied Wagtail***Motacilla alba***

Status: common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Details of sizeable winter gatherings are given below, together with all Inner London records. At the five roosts that were reported on both this year and last, maximum numbers were down by 30–75% in all but one. From May to July, only four counts in (low) double figures were recorded.

- Essex Hayes Hill Farm, 30 on Dec 5th. KGV Res, 40 on Sept 7th. Romford, 100 roosting on Feb 6th and in Oct and 200 on Dec 17th.
- Herts Brookman's Park, 27 on Dec 24th. Hatfield Garden Village, 70 flying over on Jan 24th. Lynsters Farm, 50 on Mar 13th and 40 on 20th. Maple Lodge NR, 30 on Jan 2nd. Rye Meads RSPB, 70 on Nov 21st and 35–50 in Jan, Aug, Sept, Oct and Dec. St Albans, 50 roosting in town centre on Dec 31st. Watford, 100 in High Street roost on Nov 24th.
- Middx Heathrow, 120 at pre-roost gathering on Jan 14th. Holloway, 50 roosting in Jan and Mar. KGV Res, 50 on Nov 14th. Ponders End Lake, 35, mostly juveniles, on Aug 1st.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, highest count of 40 on Mar 27th but counts of over 20 on other dates in Mar and in Jan, Apr and Dec.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 60 on Oct 10th and 20–30 in Jan, Feb and Nov. Croydon, 400 at North End roost on Dec 28th, with 250 on Jan 29th and 200 on Feb 24th. Leatherhead, 76 roosting in town centre on Feb 19th. London Wetland Centre, 68 on Sept 28th and 55 on Oct 8th. R. Hogsmill (Riverside), 36 on Oct 22nd and 26 on 28th. R. Mole (Hersham), 33 on Dec 5th. Sutton, 50 at High Street roost on Jan 13th and 35 on Feb 5th. Walton Res, 37 on Apr 20th.
- In Lond Grosvenor Square, a pair on June 4th. Hyde Park, five in July and Aug. Kensington Gdns, one on Nov 5th and 22nd and on Dec 4th. Regent's Park, two pairs possibly bred nearby and up to 30 present in Nov and Dec. St James's Park, three sightings in Oct and Nov.

1020.01 White Wagtail***M.a.alba***

Status: passage migrant, rarely identified in autumn.

As usual, the bulk of the records were in the spring, with the first seen on Mar 8th at the Wetland Centre and the last on May 15th at Fishers Green. The largest numbers during this period were recorded from Beddington SF, five on Apr 21st; KGV Res, eight on Apr 12th; KGV Res, six on Apr 10th; and Sevenoaks WR, seven on Apr 11th. There were only four records in autumn, including five at the Wetland Centre on Sept 3rd and five at Sevenoaks WR on the late date of Dec 26th.

1048 Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Status: uncommon, but sometimes numerous, irruptive visitor.

Following the 12 birds in the last three months of 2003, about 58 birds were recorded from 10 different sites in the first four months of 2004, with the last date being Apr 1st. In the last two months of 2004, 18 birds were noted at six sites, with the first being seen on Nov 16th.

- Essex Coxtie Green, one on Dec 12th (CRJ). Grays, one on Feb 6th (ELBF). Hayes Hill Farm, two on Nov 20th (ADW). Holyfield Marsh GP, two on Nov 20th (ADW). South Hornchurch, 20 on Feb 2nd (ELBF). Walthamstow, one on Feb 25th (PWh).
- Herts Cheshunt, one on Jan 4th and two on 12th (JMF). Hatfield, five on Jan 6th (TC). Hatfield Park, one on Dec 5th (RPh) and four on Dec 16th (MFs). Hoddesdon, one on Apr 1st (RMD). Northaw Great Wood, two on Dec 3rd (CMB).
- Middx Ashford, one on Mar 21st-22nd (MBn).
- Bucks Iver Heath, six on Jan 6th and one on Jan 22nd (BBG).
- Kent Petts Wood, one on Dec 15th and eight on Dec 27th (PGn).
- Surrey Addiscombe, between 4–7 from Jan 7th to 9th (mo). Limpsfield Chart, one from Nov 16th-18th (PJO). Wimbledon Common, four on Mar 17th (DWS) increasing to 12 on Mar 19th (RHK).

1066 Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Status: abundant resident.

Higher counts of singing males/territories (numbers in brackets) and reports from Inner London are given below.

- Essex Ingrebourne Valley (74). Rainham Marshes (41). Roding Valley Park (24). Valentines Park (13). Walthamstow Res (20).
- Herts Amwell GP (30). Hilfield Res (22–26). Rye Meads RSPB (87, 66 in 2003).
- Middx Stoke Newington Res (8). Wormwood Scrubs (6).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 50 trapped July-October.
- Kent Highest count 17 at Danson Park.
- Surrey Arbrook Common (14). Beddington SF (60, 65 in 2003). Cannon Hill Common (16). Hersham GP, 31 trapped. Molesey Heath (28). R. Mole, Leatherhead (42). West End Common (23). Wimbledon Common 'population stable'.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (5). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns. (15). St James' Park (3).

1084 Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Status: abundant resident.

Relatively few reports of this common species, this account includes sites with counts of 10 or more singing males/territories (numbers in brackets), other high counts (10+), ringing counts, reports from Inner London and notes on breeding activity.

- Essex Havering CP, "a 60% decline since the 1980s". Ingrebourne Valley (16, 23 in 2003). Roding Valley Park (13).
- Herts Amwell GP (12). Hilfield Res (10–16). Rye Meads RSPB (38). Tyttenhanger, a breeding pair was parasitized by Cuckoo.
- Middx Wormwood Scrubs, 20 was the highest sector count.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 54 trapped July–December.
- Surrey Beddington SF (29). Hersham GP, 28 trapped. Wimbledon Common 'population stable'.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (4). Millbank Gdns (1). Tate Britain (1). Tate Modern (1).

1099 Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Status: abundant breeding resident with influxes in autumn and winter.

All reports from sites with at least ten breeding pairs/singing males are included as are high counts of individual birds. Ringing reports are listed and all Inner London records.

- Essex Belhus Woods (10). Ingrebourne Valley (42). Larkswood, Chingford (30). Rainham Marsh (20). Roding Valley Park (15). Valentines Park (25). Walthamstow Res (11). Warren Gorge (10).
- Herts Amwell GP (9). Beech Farm GP (16). Brookmans Park (36). Cheshunt (55). Chorley Wood (23). Essendon (23). Hilfield Park (19–20). North Mymms Park (27). Rye Meads RSPB (25). Stockers Lake (11). Tyttenhanger GP (12).
- Middx Bushy Park (10). Trent Park (20).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 87 trapped between June–December.
- Kent Danson Park (21). Sevenoaks WR (16).
- Surrey Beddington SF (34). Bletchingley (20). Little Bookham Common (17). Cannon Hill Common (14). Godstone Bay Pond (18). Headley Heath (24). Hersham GP, 22 trapped. Holmthorpe SP (11). London Wetland Centre (52). Molesey Heath (13). West End Common (20).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (4–5). Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns (8). St James' Park (4). St Paul's Cathedral (1).

1104 Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Status: breeding summer visitor in small numbers, scarce passage migrant.

The first was reported from Sewardstone Marsh on Apr 4th and the last record was of one at the same site on July 5th when an adult was seen with a juvenile. There were no autumn records. A total of 28 singing males were reported, identical to 2003, however many of these would have been transitory. 12 of these were from Essex (the Lee Valley) with an exceptional record of ten singing males at Fishers Green on May 1st.

- Essex Fishers Green area, up to 10 territories (TS). Hayes Hill Farm, one singing on April 27th. Sewardstone Marsh, one singing on Apr 4th and 19th (BD) plus an adult and a juvenile on July 5th (MSd).



- Herts Cheshunt GP, one singing at on Apr 17th (ALs) and 24th (AMn). Rye Meads RSPB, one singing on May 8th (RMRG). Seventy Acres Lake, one singing on May 17th (BS).
- Middx Brent Res, one singing on May 2nd (RAH *et al*).
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one in song on May 9th and 31st (PR).
- Surrey Bookham Common, five territories (APe), a reduction from six in 2003 and 12 in 2002. Cobham, two were in song on Apr 25th (BTO). Elmbridge Leisure Centre, one singing on Apr 26th (APS). London Wetland Centre, one singing on Apr 26th (JPPW).

1106 Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
 Status: rare vagrant.

- Surrey A bright summer male of this species was present from Apr 29th to May 1st (NPS *et al*) at the London Wetland Centre. A second duller bird was also seen on Apr 30th (NSB, RK *et al*); this was believed to be either a female or a first-summer male.

1121 Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*
 Status: breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

All sites where there was evidence of breeding activity are listed in the table below. The total of 11 breeding records compares to seven reported in 2003. There were 12 records in total from Essex, six from Herts, thirty from Middlesex (including 21 from Staines Res), none from Bucks, one from Kent, four from Surrey and four from Inner London.

| | Site | Pairs breeding | Singing Males |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Essex | Bow Locks | | 1 |
| | Convoys Wharf | 2 | |
| | Leyton | | 1 |
| | Stratford | | 2 |
| | West Ham | 1 | |
| Middx | Brimsdown | 1 | |
| In Lond | Cleveland St | 1 | |
| | St Pancras Area | | 1 |
| | Tate Modern | | 1 |

1122 Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Status: uncommon passage migrant and former breeder.

The first of spring was a male on April 14th at Sewardstone Marsh, a typical first arrival date. In the week following a further nine birds were reported from a range of sites. There were a total of 21 records received for the spring period with the last being a female on May 20th, also at Sewardstone Marsh. Spring passage in 2003 consisted of just seven birds.

The first bird of the autumn period was on Aug 14th at Merry Hill, Bushey. A total of 21 records were received for the autumn period involving a total of 13 birds. The last bird of the year was reported from Hayes on Sept 19th.

- Essex Sewardstone Marsh, singles on April 14th and May 20th. Waterworks NR, one on April 16th.
- Herts Bushey, one on Aug 14th. Hilfield Park, one on April 22nd. Jersey Farm, a male from Sept 1st-4th. Maple Lodge NR, one on Aug 25th. Rye Meads RSPB, singles on April 17th and May 2nd. Seventy Acres Lake, one on Apr 9th.
- Middx Brent Res, singles on April 17th and Aug 28th. Bushey Park, one on Apr 23rd. Hayes, one on Sept 19th. Horsendon Hill, singles on April 18th and 23rd. Kempton NR, one on Sept 12th. Lake Farm, one from Aug 25th-Sept 1st. Park Farm, Enfield, one on Sept 8th. Trent Park, one on Sept 1st and 2nd, two on Sept 16th and 17th. Vicarage Farm, singles on April 27th, Aug 21st, 24th and 30th.
- Bucks Arthur Jacob NR, Horton, one on April 16th.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, singles on April 20th and May 2nd. Moorhouse, one on April 16th. South Norwood CP, singles on April 16th and 23rd. Walton-on Thames, one on April 17th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, 1-2 seen on five dates between Sept 1st-15th (ARD, DJ).

1137 Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Status: regular passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

There were 53 spring records with the first of the year on April 18th at Fairlop Waters and the Wetland Centre. Largest counts were of five at Minet CP on May 9th, four at Lake Farm on April 29th and three at the Wetland Centre on April 30th. The peak spring passage occurred between Apr 22nd and May 4th when 33 sightings were recorded. The last bird of spring was at Vicarage

Farm on May 20th. A single bird seen at the Wetland Centre on June 16th was outside the usual pattern of spring and autumn passage.

A total of 126 sightings was recorded during the autumn passage period. The first of these was at Lake Farm on Aug 15th. The highest autumn count by far was 25 seen at Fairlop Waters on Sept 15th. Ten were at Beech Farm on Sept 10th and at Tylers Common on Sept 15th; six at Lake Farm on Sept 14th and at Beech Farm on Aug 21st; with five at Yeading Brook Meadows on Aug 28th, Bishops Wood CP on Aug 31st and Staines Moor on Sept 8th. The total of approximately 273 birds on autumn passage was much lower than the 499 counted in the same period in 2003.

In Lond Regent's Park, two on Sept 16th (ARD, DJ).

1139 European Stonechat

Saxicola torquata

Status: localised breeding resident, regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Recorded at 45 different sites during the winter period with many birds long staying. There was some evidence of a small passage during March but nothing compared to the autumn passage which started in late September peaking during October and continued well into November. There were breeding reports from only six sites involving up to 11 pairs.

- Essex Peak autumn counts were of 21 at Rainham Marshes on Oct 17th and 26 on Nov 14th.
- Herts One possible breeding record from Merry Hill, Bushey. A count of six at Tyttenhanger GP on Oct 3rd was the highest.
- Middx Two pairs bred in Bushy Park and the peak count was of 10 at Vicarage Farm on Sept 29th.
- Bucks The highest counts were of four at Wraysbury GP on Sept 27th and Oct 5th.
- Kent There was probable breeding at two sites, three pairs at Swanscombe Marsh and one at Dartford Marsh.
- Surrey There were up to two pairs breeding in Richmond Park and another at Walton Heath. The maximum count was of eight birds at Richmond Park on Oct 30th.

1146 Northern Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe

Status: common passage migrant and very occasional breeding visitor.

The first record of the year was of a single bird at Walthamstow Marshes on the fairly typical date of Mar 15th. There was a steady arrival throughout the rest of the month and in all there were 57 records during March with a total of at least 105 birds, this number was more than double that seen in 2003 when there were only 44. On Mar 28th there were 10 at Beddington and seven at KGV Res. The influx continued into April when there were 132 records of over 350 individuals. April peaks were in the second half of the month with 126 birds recorded on Apr 22nd and five sites achieving double figure totals on that day. The highest counts of the month were 15 at Queen Mother Res on Apr 16th and 14 at Chelsham on Apr 22nd. Passage continued at a slower

pace into May, after 14 at KGV Res on 1st, and during the month there were another 47 records totalling at least 68 birds. There was just one June record of a single bird at Hutchinson's Bank on June 12th. Overall the spring passage was strong and sustained with at least 520 bird/days.

Autumn passage started on July 27th with a single bird seen at Lake Farm. In all there were five July records, all of single birds. Passage continued at a trickle throughout August with a further 56 records totalling 70 birds, most sightings were of just 1–2 birds with three being seen on just three occasions. The slow trickle continued throughout September when there 61 reported sightings of a total 74 birds. Five at Woldingham on Sept 19th was the highest autumn total. October brought a further 17 birds. A single bird at Dartford Marsh on Oct 30th was the last of the autumn. The poor autumn passage of 166 bird/days was a poor contrast to the strong showing in the spring.

In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Mar 29th and 30th, Apr 22nd and Sept 12th. Tate Modern one on May 20th. Kensington Gardens, one on Aug 30th.

The following records refer to birds considered by their observers to show characteristics of the race *leucorroha*, known as Greenland Wheatear.

Essex Rainham Marshes, singles on May 18th and 20th.
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, singles on Apr 27th, May 13th, 20th and 24th. Queen Mother Res, two on Sept 13th and one on 15th.
 Surrey London Wetland Centre, singles on May 11th, 14th and 20th, and Sept 21st and 25th.

1186 Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*
 Status: regular passage migrant, but never common.

A good total of 43 spring records involving 18–20 birds with several being long-staying. The first of the year was seen at Chelsham on April 9th and the last at Beddington SF on Oct 17th. There was a noteworthy late spring record of a single bird at Grovelands on May 27th. There were six autumn records totalling five birds.

Essex Fairlop Waters, one on Apr 20th. Grays, one on Oct 13th. Havering CP, one on Oct 10th. KGV Res, one on Apr 13th. Pages Farm, one on Oct 8th. Rainham Marshes, one on Oct 9th.
 Herts Radlett, two males from Apr 24–26th with one present until May 1st. Rye Park, one on Apr 27th.
 Middx Alexandra Park, one from Apr 23rd–28th. Bushy Park, one on May 3rd. Grovelands Park, one on May 27th. KGV Res, one from Apr 17–20th and a pair from Apr 25th–May 3rd with the female present until May 8th. Trent Park, one on Apr 22nd. Wormwood Scrubs, one on Apr 23rd.
 Surrey Chelsham, one from Apr 9–12th and two on Apr 22nd. South Norwood CP, one on Apr 16th. High Breach, Chelsham, one on Apr 19th. London Wetland Centre, one from May 7–14th and an immature on Oct 13th. Shirley, two on Sept 1st. Beddington SF, one from Oct 16–17th.
 In Lond Regent's Park, one on May 11th (ARD, DJ).

- 1187 Blackbird** *Turdus merula*
 Status: abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.
- The county summaries contain details of those sites with high breeding (number of territories/nests in brackets) or wintering counts. All Inner London records are included.
- Essex Dagenham Chase, 37 on Jan 13th. Ingrebourne Valley (49), 52 on Nov 24th. Larkwood, Chingford (31). Rainham Marshes, 40 on Oct 29th. Roding Valley Park (22). Sewardstone Marsh, 40 on Jan 18th. Valentines Park, 48 on Dec 11th. Walthamstow Res (29).
- Herts Hilfield Park Res (19–22). Brookmans Park, 35 on Apr 10th. Cheshunt (157 in extensive survey area). North Mymms Park, 40 Dec 10th. Rye Meads RSPB, 50 on Dec 25th.
- Middx Bushy Park, 20 on Jan 27th. Trent Park, 30 on Feb 28th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, 25 ringed between July and Dec.
- Kent Danson Park, 28 on May 17th.
- Surrey Beddington SF (18), 45 on Dec 14th. Godstone Bay Pond, 24 on Mar 4th. Island Barn Res, 33 on Nov 18th. London Wetland Centre, 82 on Sept 25th. Molesey Heath (20).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (7). Hyde Park (3). St James' Park, 13 on Sep 23rd. St Johns Gardens, a partial albino on June 16th. St Pauls (2). Southbank (1). Tate Modern (2), one singing in the dark on Jan 5th.

- 1198 Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*
 Status: regular passage migrant and winter visitor.
- During the first two months of the year reports were received of 41 flocks of 100 birds or more with 17 of these being over 200. The largest flocks were of 500 at Orsett on Jan 1st, 450 at Stocker's Farm on Feb 17th, 350 at Sevenoaks WR on Feb 18th and 350 at Bletchingley on Feb 24th. Late February saw many large-scale movements in Surrey. Movements continued on a reducing scale throughout March. In April, there was a late flurry with 250 at Tyttenhanger on Apr 11th and there were five May records with the last at the Wetland Centre on May 23rd. There was an unseasonal record of three at Rainham Marshes on July 26th.
- The second winter period saw the first returnees at Ingrebourne Valley on Oct 6th with large arrivals from 8th, with 600 over Regent's Park and 370 WNW over the Wetland Centre on Oct 9th and 300 over Beddington SF on Oct 10th. Activity then continued at a lower level until late November when there were 250 over Hatfield Park on Nov 27th and 400 over North Mymms on Nov 28th. Movements continued at a higher level though December with reports of 14 flocks of over 100, the largest flocks were at Rainham Marshes with 550 on Dec 29th and 600 on 30th.
- Highest county counts are listed and all Inner London records.
- Essex Fairlop Waters, 260 on Jan 1st and 200 on Dec 5th. Grange Waters, 300 in Jan. Havering CP, 200 on Jan 2nd. Holyfield Hall Farm, 200 on Feb 14th and 15th. Rainham Marshes, 550 on Dec 29th and 600 on 30th.

- Herts Beech Farm GP, 250 on Jan 2nd. Colney Heath, 260 on Mar 12th. Coursers Farm, 250 Feb 2nd. Haberdashers' Girls School, 200 on Jan 5th and Feb 23rd. Hatfield Park, 250 on Nov 27th. North Mymms Park, 400 on Nov 28th. Stocker's Farm, 450 on Feb 17th. Tyttenhanger GP, 250 on Apr 11th. Watford, 250 on Oct 29th. Woodoaks Farm, 200 on Jan 4th.
- Middx Stanwell Moor, 200 on Mar 6th.
- Bucks Denham, 50+ on Dec 29th.
- Kent Knockholt Pond, 200 on Feb 14th. Sevenoaks WR, 350 on Feb 18th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 300 on Oct 10th. Bletchingley, 350 on Feb 24th. Epsom Common, 230 on Dec 11th. High Breach, Chelsham, 200 Mar 29th. Horton CP, 348 on Mar 3rd. London Wetland Centre, 391 on Oct 9th. R. Hogsmill, 200 on Dec 10th.
- In Lond Paddington Green, 17 on Nov 4th. Regent's Park, peaks of 80 on Jan 28th and Feb 28th and 600 on Oct 9th.

1200 Song Thrush***Turdus philomelos***

Status: common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding records were received from most counties with no suggestion that there had been any change in numbers. The largest concentrations of territories in each county are shown below, (numbers in brackets). A few other high counts during the winter months, all evidence of migration, and most Inner London records are also given.

- Essex Bedfords Park (13), 12 on Oct 12th. Dagenham Chase (7). Fishers Green (10). Havering CP (8). Ingrebourne Valley (26). Rainham Marshes, 19 on Jan 25th and 14 on Oct 16th. Roding Valley Park (8). Thorndon CP (12). Weald Park (11).
- Herts Bowyer's GP (7+). Cheshunt GP (7+). Hilfield Park Res (c6). Jersey Farm (6). Rye Meads RSPB (11), 10 on Oct 16th and Dec 11th.
- Middx Brent Res, 10 on Feb 27th. Grovelands Park (5). Wormwood Scrubs (16).
- Bucks Wrybury GP, 20 trapped between July and Dec.
- Kent Dartford Marsh (5). Fooks Cray Meadows, five on Feb 26th. Sevenoaks WR, 11 on Dec 5th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 12 on Jan 20th and 23 on Dec 14th. Bookham Common (15). Ham Lands (22). Headley Heath, 22 on Feb 18th. Horton CP, 10 on Nov 14th. Limpsfield Chart (22). London Wetland Centre, migration counts: 23 on Sept 25th, 65 on Oct 8th, 24 on 9th, 80 on 13th, 26 on 19th and 10 on Nov 7th.
- In Lond Hyde Park (2). Kensington Gardens (4). St James' Park (3).

1201 Redwing***Turdus iliacus***

Status: common passage migrant and winter visitor.

The year started with good numbers everywhere; there were 40 records of counts of 100 or more. Easily the highest was 1000 at Tooting Common on Jan 28th. This continued into February when there were a further 28 records of over 100 with Headstone Park in Edgware hosting 1100 on Feb 22nd. Large counts fell away substantially during March with the first half of the

month having another 12 counts of 100+, 200 at Danson Park on 9th being the highest. April's highest was 50 at North Mymms Park on the 1st and the last of the northward passage were four at Radlett on April 24th. There was an unusual summer bird reported trapped from Wraysbury GP on June 26th with abnormally developed flight feathers.

The first record of the autumn was of 40 flying north at Leyton on Sept 25th. Very low numbers were then reported until Oct 8th when the start of the largest movement of the autumn was reported with 410 at the Wetland Centre. The following day a total of over 16,000 was reported, predominantly from Surrey, Herts and Middx, heading in a mainly W/NW direction. Four sites had counts over 2000 with 2385 in just over three hours at the R. Hogsmill being the highest. The passage continued on Oct 10th with a further 8,000+ reported; 3,000 from Beddington SF being the highest. There was only one large count on the 11th with 2,615 at R. Hogsmill in one and a half hours. Things generally subsided until Oct 20th when 450 were reported at Rainham Marshes. Two final high counts from R. Hogsmill of 371 on 27th and 600 on 28th October ended the month. November, in comparison, was quiet with just four counts of over 200 birds. December brought 17 counts of over 100 birds, R. Hogsmill yet again providing the highest with over 1100 on Dec 29th. All counts of 200 or over and unseasonable records are given below.

- Essex Fairlop Waters, 200 on Dec 5th. Harold Hill, 270 on Jan 2nd, 350 on Jan 3rd. Harold Wood Park, 350 on Jan 3rd. Harrow Lodge Farm, 255 on Jan 20th. Orsett, 500 on Jan 1st. Rainham Marshes, 450 on Oct 20th and Dec 29th and 500 on 30th. South Weald, 250 on Jan 4th. Walthamstow Res, 520 on Oct 10th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 500 on Oct 10th. Brookmans Park, 350 on Jan 17th. Broxbourne Woods, 200 on Nov 24th. Hatfield Park, 200 on Dec 4th. Hilfield Park Res, 200 on Oct 10th. North Mymms Park, 500 on Nov 28th. Rye Meads RSPB, 636 on Oct 9th and 200 on 10th. Tyttenhanger GP, 200 on Feb 7th. Watford, 250 on Oct 29th.
- Middx Brent Res, 2000+ Oct 9th. Broadwater Lake, 500 on Nov 28th. Headstone Park, 1100 on Feb 22nd. Hampstead Heath, 700+ in two hours on Oct 9th. Hampton Court Palace, 200 on Jan 21st.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, an unseasonable bird on June 26th, 22 trapped on Dec 11th.
- Kent Danson Park, 200 on Jan 7th, 22nd and 30th and Mar 9th; 250 on Feb 3rd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 300 on Oct 10th. Coulsdon, 300 on Oct 10th. Croham Hurst, 719 on Oct 9th and 907 on 9th. Holmethorpe SP, 520 on Oct 10th. Island Barn Res, 400 on Feb 2nd. Limpsfield Chart, 310 on Oct 9th and 540 on Oct 10th. London Wetland Centre, 300 on Jan 3rd, 200 on Feb 10th, 410 on Oct 8th, 2285 NW on 9th and 445 on 10th. North Downs GC, 2000 NW on Oct 9th. QE II Res, 920 NW on Oct 9th. R. Hogsmill, 2356 on Oct 9th, 1346 on Oct, 2615 on 11th, 371 on 27th, 600 on 28th; 250 on Dec 10th, 1127 on 29th and 503 on 30th. South Norwood Lake, 600 on Oct 10th. Tooting Common, 1000 on Jan 28th. Wimbledon Common, 200 on Dec 8th.
- In Lond Battersea Bridge, five on Nov 30th. Green Park, one on Oct 11th. Hyde Park, two on Mar 16th. Kensington Gardens, five on Feb 21st. Regent's Park, max of 1000+ on Oct 9th. St James Park, nine W on Oct 9th.

1202 Mistle Thrush*Turdus viscivorus*

Status: common breeding resident.

Large counts and post breeding records seemed consistent with the previous year. There was one outstandingly high count of 120 at the London Wetland Centre on Oct 8th at the same time as huge movements of Redwings and Fieldfares. Counts of territories (numbers in brackets), post breeding gatherings, local census counts and Inner London records are given below.

- Essex Havering CP (4). Mayesbrook Park (3). South Park, Ilford (3). Stubbers OPC, 21 on July 15th. Thorndon Park, 10 on Oct 11th. Valentines Park (7), 34 on July 9th. Weald CP (6).
- Herts Cassiobury Park, 20 Aug 6th. North Mymms Park, 21 on Sept 12th. Tyttenhanger GP, 22 on May 28th, 54 on Sept 11th and 30 on Sept 26th.
- Middx Bushy Park, 20 on Nov 4th. Grovelands Park, 14 on June 29th. Harlington, 33 on Sept 13th. Horsenden Hill, 10 on April 17th. Park Farm, Enfield, 30 on Sept 13th.
- Bucks Chalfont Park, 35 on Sept 27th.
- Kent Foots Cray Meadow, 18 on June 26th. Wilmington School, 22 on Sept 7th.
- Surrey Cannons Hill Common, 13 on Oct 15th. London Wetland Centre, 13 on Jan 27th, 10 on July 11th, 16 on Sept 25th and 120 on Oct 8th.
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (1). Hyde Park (2), six immatures seen in July. Kensington Gardens (1). Millbank Gardens, one singing in Dec. St James' Park, two males singing on Feb 3rd and one on Dec 9th. Westminster, two adults with a juvenile in Deans Yard on June 1st.

1220 Cetti's Warbler*Cettia cetti*

Status scarce migrant, winter visitor and breeding species subject to periodic colonisation.

- Essex Berwick Ponds, one from Jan—Apr. Ingrebourne Valley, up to six from Oct—Dec. Rainham GP, one on Jan 24th. Rainham Marshes NR, one on Oct 24th was the first record there.
- Herts Amwell GP, one in both winter periods. Great Amwell, one on June 5th. Seventy Acres Lake, one from Oct—Dec.
- Middx Bedford Lakes CP, one in Dec.
- Kent Littlebrook PS, one on Jan 25th. Sevenoaks WR, one from Oct—Dec. Swanscombe Marsh, one on May 8th.
- Surrey London Wetland Centre, the bird from Dec 2003 was present until Apr 1st, up to two from Oct 10th—Dec 11th.

There was no proof of breeding and most records were from outside of the breeding season, however, birds have been seen and heard at some of the same sites for several years now.

- 1236 Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*
 Status: scarce passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.
- Essex Hornchurch CP, one on Apr 19th.
 Herts Amwell GP, two in Apr, one until July. Beech Farm GP, one on Aug 27th and 29th. Bowyer's GP, one on Apr 27th and 29th. Croxley Moor, one from Apr—May. Hertingfordbury, one on July 18th. Hilfield Park Res, two ringed in Aug. St Albans, one on June 20th.
- Middx Hanwell, one on Apr 22nd.
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, four in Sept, two of which were trapped.
 Surrey Island Barn Res, one on Apr 19th. Molesey Heath, one on CBC. South Norwood CP, one on Apr 16th.

Recorded from 13 sites, most of which were clearly migrants.

- 1243 Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
 Status: common and widespread migrant and breeding summer visitor.
- Numbers of territories or singing males are given in brackets below along with other records.
- Essex Berwick Ponds, one in Apr. Holyfield Marsh GP (3). Sewardstone Marsh, one in Apr and six on Sept 7th.
- Herts Amwell GP (25). Beech Farm GP (3). Bowyer's GP, four in Apr. Brookmans Park, one on Sept 27th. Broxbourne GP (10). Croxley Moor, up to eight from Apr—May. Hatfield, one in May. Hilfield Park Res (6), 34 birds trapped during the year. Maple Lodge NR (3). Rye Meads RSPB (64). Seventy Acres Lake, one in Apr. Stanborough Lakes, three in May. Stocker's Lake, one in Apr. Troy Mill GP (1). Tyttenhanger GP (2–3).
- Middx Brent Res (5). Laleham (1). Staines Moor (1). Staines Res, one on Aug 9th. Stanwell Moor, four in Apr. Stoke Newington Res (4). Tottenham Marsh (c10). Trent Park (1). Wormwood Scrubs (7).
- Bucks Recorded from Chalfont Park and Old Slade Lake on one date only. Wraysbury GP, 20 on Apr 23rd, 34 trapped in autumn.
- Kent Dartford Marsh (1). Sevenoaks WR, two in Apr.
- Surrey Addington, one on Apr 6th. Beddington SF (9). Brickfields Meadow, one on May 4th. Hersham GP, four trapped in July. Horton CP (1). Island Barn Res, two in Aug. London Wetland Centre (7), 40 on June 19th. Molesey Heath (1). Morden Hall Park (1). R.Ember (East Molesey), one on May 2nd. Sanderstead, one on May 11th. South Croydon, one on June 14th. South Norwood CP, one in Apr. Wimbledon Common (1).
- In Lond Camberwell, one on May 27th. St James's Park, one on one day in spring.

At least 168 singing males or territories reported compared to 311 in 2003, although incomplete records were received from Essex. It would assist comparative figures if observers would specify the number of singing males when submitting records.

1251 Reed Warbler***Acrocephalus scirpaceus***

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

Numbers of territories or singing males are given in brackets below along with other records.

- Essex Dagenham Chase, two on Apr 25th. Nazeing GP (1).
- Herts Amwell GP (41). Batchworth Lake, two on June 20th. Beech Farm GP (4). Broxbourne GP (3). Cheshunt GP (5). Cheshunt, North Met GP (7+). Croxley Moor, two on May 6th. Hilfield Park Res, 85 trapped. Maple Lodge NR (3+). Rye Meads RSPB (60). Stanborough Lakes, five in June. Stanstead Abbots GP (1). Stocker's Lake (3). Tyttenhanger GP (1).
- Middx Brent Res (2+). Hampton Waterworks, six in May. Kempton NR (2). Ponders End Lake (3). Shepperton, one on Apr 25th. Springwell Lake (1). Staines Moor (5). Stockley Park (3). Stoke Newington Res (16). Tottenham Marsh (3). Trent Park (1).
- Bucks Arthur Jacob NR, Horton (1). Old Slade Lake, two on May 27th. Wraysbury GP, two on May 6th, 55 trapped in autumn.
- Kent Danson Park, one in July. Dartford Marsh (5). Foots Cray Meadows (1). Ruxley GP (11). Sevenoaks WR, up to five in May and June. Swanscombe Marsh (54).
- Surrey Beddington SF (10). Esher Common (2). Hersham GP (1). Hogsmill SF, one on May 20th. Hook, one in a garden on June 13th. Horton CP (1). Island Barn Res, one on Aug 7th. London Wetland Centre, 100 on June 19th. Molesey Heath (4). Morden Hall Park (1). Norwood (1). R.Mole, West Molesey (5). South Norwood CP (5+). Walton Res (10). Wimbledon Common (1).
- In Lond Kensington Gdns (1). St James's Park (2).

At least 283 singing males or territories reported compared to 664 in 2003, but again incomplete records were received from Essex. There was also no indication from some sites if the figures recorded were of singing males or not.

1277 Blackcap***Sylvia atricapilla***

Status: common summer visitor and passage migrant, increasingly common and widespread in winter.

| | <i>Jan</i> | <i>Feb</i> | <i>Nov</i> | <i>Dec</i> |
|---------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Essex | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Herts | 14 | 14 | 5 | 3 |
| Middx | 12 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Bucks | - | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Kent | 5 | 2 | - | 2 |
| Surrey | 58 | 64 | 8 | 18 |
| In Lond | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 95 | 89 | 21 | 32 |

The above table shows the number of wintering birds reported. The January figure appears to be the highest ever and compares to 65 seen in 2003.

The largest concentrations of singing males/territories (numbers in brackets) and a selection of other records is given below.

- Essex Dagenham Chase (11). Fishers Green, 25 on Apr 16th.
 Herts Amwell GP (10). Bricket Wood area (6). Brookmans Park, 11 on Apr 25th. Essendon, 12 on May 8th. Grand Union Canal, Rickmansworth, 17 on Apr 25th. Hilfield Park Res (13–15). Maple Lodge NR (8). North Mymms Park, 14 on May 2nd. Rye Meads RSPB (33).
 Middx Bentley Priory (12). Brent Res (30+). Bushy Park (11). Horsenden Hill, 21 on Apr 24th. Stanmore CP (10). Totteridge (12). Wormwood Scrubs (12).
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, 30 on Apr 23rd, 545 trapped in autumn.
 Kent Foots Cray Woods (16). Lullingstone Lake/Park (12+). Ruxley GP (10+). Sevenoaks WR, 19 on May 31st.
 Surrey Arbrook Common (7 on CBC). Beddington SF (6). Bookham Common (28 on Plains). Epsom Common (10). Headley Heath, 10 on May 22nd. London Wetland Centre (9). Molesey Heath (16). Princes Coverts (10). R.Mole, Leatherhead (21 on CBC). The Ledges, Esher (7 on CBC). Tooting Common, 12 on May 7th. West End Common, Esher (6 on CBC). Wimbledon Common (100+).
 In Lond Buckingham Palace (1). Holland Park, five on Apr 23rd. Hyde Park (1). Kensington Gardens (3). St Paul's Cathedral (1).

- 1276 Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*
 Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.
 Details of singing males/territories where more than one (number in brackets) and other counts are given.
- Essex Fishers Green (2).
 Herts Amwell GP (11). Batchworth Lake, four in May and June. Grand Union Canal, Rickmansworth (3). North Mymms Park (8). Rye Meads RSPB (16). Tyttenhanger GP, six in June.
 Middx Brent Res (2). Broadwater Lake, four in Apr. Denham Quarry Lake, four in May. Trent Park (2). Wormwood Scrubs (3).
 Bucks Wraysbury GP (2), 65 trapped in autumn.
 Kent Ruxley GP (2). Sevenoaks WR, five in May.
 Surrey Banstead Down (2). Bookham Common (21 on Plains). Epsom Common (2). Headley Heath, five in May. Horton CP (2). Limpsfield Chart, "has now gone as a breeding bird". Princes Coverts (3). Wimbledon Common (20).

- 1274 Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*
 Status: widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.
 Details of singing males/territories where more than one (number in brackets) and other counts are given.
- Essex Dagenham Chase (3).
 Herts Beech Farm GP (2). Cheshunt GP (4). Croxley Moor (2–3). Rye Meads RSPB (10).
 Middx Brent Res (2–4). Kempton NR (3). Parkside Farm/Res (2). Stanwell Moor (1–3). Tottenham Marsh (2). Trent Park (2). Wormwood Scrubs (1–3).

- Bucks Wraysbury GP (2), 30 trapped in autumn.
 Kent Dartford Marsh, six on Aug 28th. Ruxley GP (2).
 Surrey Bookham Common (5 on Plains, "highest for recent years"). Chessington (3).
 Ham Lands (2). Horton CP (2). Island Barn Res (3). Molesey Heath, six on
 Aug 12th. Wimbledon Common (2).

Although some of these singing birds were clearly migrants, the sites that did record territories showed an increase on 2003.

1275 Common Whitethroat

Sylvia communis

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

Details of singing males/territories where more than three (number in brackets) and other counts are given.

- Essex Dagenham Chase (21).
 Herts Amwell GP (9). Beech Farm GP (3). Broxbourne GP (4). Croxley Moor, 10 on
 Apr 26th. Essendon, 12 in May. Hilfield Park Res (6). Jersey Farm, St Albans
 (6). North Mymms Park, 10 on May 2nd. Rye Meads RSPB (32).
 Tyttenhanger GP (9–10).
 Middx Brent Res (7). Kempton NR (10). Lake Farm, 12 in June. Tottenham Marsh
 (c20). Totteridge (2–3). Wormwood Scrubs (22, "the best year to date for this
 species").
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, 14 in May, 174 trapped in autumn.
 Kent Dartford Marsh (10+). Fooks Cray Meadows (16). Ruxley GP (7).
 Swanscombe Marsh (14).
 Surrey Beddington SF (72). Bletchingley, eight in May. Bookham Common (30).
 Elmbridge Leisure Centre (10). Epsom Common (3). Epsom Downs, five in
 May. Ham Lands (3). Headley Heath, 10 in May. Hogsmill SF (6). Horton CP
 (5). Island Barn Res (6). London Wetland Centre (3). Molesey Heath (26 on
 CBC). R.Hogsmill, Elmbridge OS (3). R.Hogsmill, Riverside OS (3). R.Mole,
 Leatherhead (5). South Norwood CP, 15 in Apr. Tenchleys (7–8). West End
 Common (5). Wimbledon Common (32).
 In Lond Battersea Bridge (1). Kensington Gardens, one on Aug 25th. Waterloo, one
 found dead on Sept 16th.

1262 Dartford Warbler

Sylvia undata

Status: in recent years a very rare breeding species at one or two sites and still a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor at others.

- Essex Rainham Marshes NR, one from Oct 30th—Nov 9th (RSPB *et al*). West
 Thurrock Marshes, one from Nov 14th—Dec 22nd (DJo *et al*).
 Middx Bushy Park, one on Jan 29th and Feb 28th (MB).
 Bucks A pair nest-building in Apr at the site where they bred in 2003.
 Surrey Site A, 1–3 throughout year. Beddington SF, one on Oct 2nd, then 1–2 from
 Nov 7th—28th with one until Dec 26th. Richmond Park, one in Jan and Feb
 and one in Nov and Dec.

Two pairs present during the breeding season although there was no proof of breeding in either case.

1300 Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*
Status: very rare vagrant.

Essex Fairlop Waters, a male from Jan 11th—Apr 25th (AAB *et al*).
Middx Brent Res, a male on May 1st (LAB, ISE *et al*).

The first records for London. Although this species is typically a late autumn vagrant, these records follow an unprecedented influx of 27 individuals in the UK in the autumn of 2003. Over-wintering has also occurred in the UK before. Both records have been accepted by the BBRC who treated them as being the same individual. However, it seems unlikely for a bird that has stayed for over three months in one spot to move to the other side of London. The Brent bird was not found until the afternoon and may have arrived with a fall of migrants following a mid-morning shower. The Fairlop bird started singing on the penultimate day it was present and the Brent bird was also singing during its short stay.

1308 Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
Status: scarce passage migrant and former breeding summer visitor.

Surrey Walton Heath, one singing on June 6th (APe).

The only record of the year. This species has become significantly rarer in London, e.g. just ten years ago: one pair bred, 23 singing birds were heard in spring and 20 birds were located on passage in autumn.

1311 Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor; increasingly widespread in winter.

The following table shows the approximate number of birds wintering in London. Unlike Blackcaps, most wintering Chiffchaffs are not in the Surrey sector.

| | Essex | Herts | Middx | Bucks | Kent | Surrey | In Lond | Totals |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|---------|--------|
| Jan | 6 | 15 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 4 | - | 41 |
| Feb | 3 | 16 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 2 | - | 37 |
| Nov | 11 | 16 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 11 | - | 51 |
| Dec | 9 | 19 | 13 | 7 | 5 | 10 | - | 63 |

Details of singing males/territories where more than four (number in brackets) and other counts are given.

Essex Dagenham Chase (5). Fishers Green, 22 on Apr 16th. Rainham Marshes NR, 16 on Oct 2nd.

- Herts Amwell GP (6), 10 on Mar 31st. Batchworth Lake, nine on Apr 3rd. Bowyer's GP (11). Brookmans Park, 10 on Apr 29th. Cheshunt GP (11). Croxley Moor, nine on Apr 7th. Essendon, 10 on May 8th. Grand Union Canal, Rickmansworth (15). Hilfield Park Res (23). Jersey Farm (5). London Colney, eight on Mar 27th. Maple Lodge NR (5). North Mymms Park, 10 in Apr and May. Northaw Great Wood (4). Rye Meads RSPB (25), 60 in Sept. Tyttenhanger GP (up to 6).
- Middx Bentley Priory (12). Brent Res (17), 28 on Sept 12th. Bushy Park (8). Horsenden Hill, 16 in Apr. Kempton NR (6). Middlesex FB, nine on Mar 18th. Totteridge (14). Wormwood Scrubs (up to 7, "best ever breeding season").
- Bucks Thorney CP (4). Wraysbury GP, eight on Mar 27th, 691 trapped between June-Oct.
- Kent Foots Cray Woods (14, "numbers higher than ever"). Lullingstone Lake/Park (11). Ruxley GP (7+). Sevenoaks WR, 26 on Apr 3rd.
- Surrey Arbrook Common (10 on CBC). Beddington SF, 20 in Aug and Sept. Bletchingley, eight in Apr. Bookham Common (33 on Plains). Epsom Common (10). Headley Heath, 15 in Apr. Horton CP (17). Limpsfield Chart (13). London Wetland Centre (6), 35 on Sept 25th. Molesey Heath (16). Princes Coverts (5). R.Hogsmill, Riverside OS (5). R.Hogsmill, West Ewell (9). The Ledges, Esher (5). West End Common (14 on CBC). Wimbledon Common (67, "32 on last survey in 1997").
- In Lond 1-4 recorded from Battersea Bridge, Green Park, Holland Park, Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns and St James's Park.

From the comments received it's apparent that Chiffchaffs have increased their breeding numbers in London.

1312 Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

Status: common and widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

Details of singing males/territories where more than two (number in brackets) and other counts are given.

- Essex Dagenham Chase (13). Fishers Green, 11 in Apr.
- Herts Amwell GP (9). Beech Farm GP (5). Bowyer's GP (8+), 20 in Apr. Broxbourne GP (4). Croxley Moor (9). Grand Union Canal, Rickmansworth (7, "best count here for a good many years"). Hilfield Park Res (4). Jersey Farm, 13 in May. North Mymms Park, six in June. Rye Meads RSPB (8). Stanstead Abbots GP (4). Tyttenhanger GP (5+).
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP (4). Bentley Priory (6). Brent Res (5). Horsenden Hill (4). Kempton NR (7). Stanwell Moor (4).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, four in Apr, 96 trapped in autumn.
- Surrey Banstead Down (10). Bookham Common, 11 in Apr. Epsom Common (3). Headley Heath, 27 on May 31st. Horton CP (4). Island Barn Res (3). Princes Coverts (3). Wimbledon Common (6).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, one on Apr 15th. Kensington Gardens (2). St James's Park (2). Tate Modern, one on Aug 11th. All of these records were of migrants only.

1314 Goldcrest***Regulus regulus***

Status: breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

At least 135 pairs were reported during the breeding season. Breeding records at Hilfield Park Res returned to the levels of 2002, suggesting that the reduced levels in 2003 were due to a lack of coverage. Few high counts were received, 30 at Rye Meads RSPB on Oct 30th and Nov 15th and at the Wetland Centre on Oct 10th were the highest. Breeding season records (number of pairs/singing males in brackets), counts of 15 or more and a summary of Inner London records are given below.

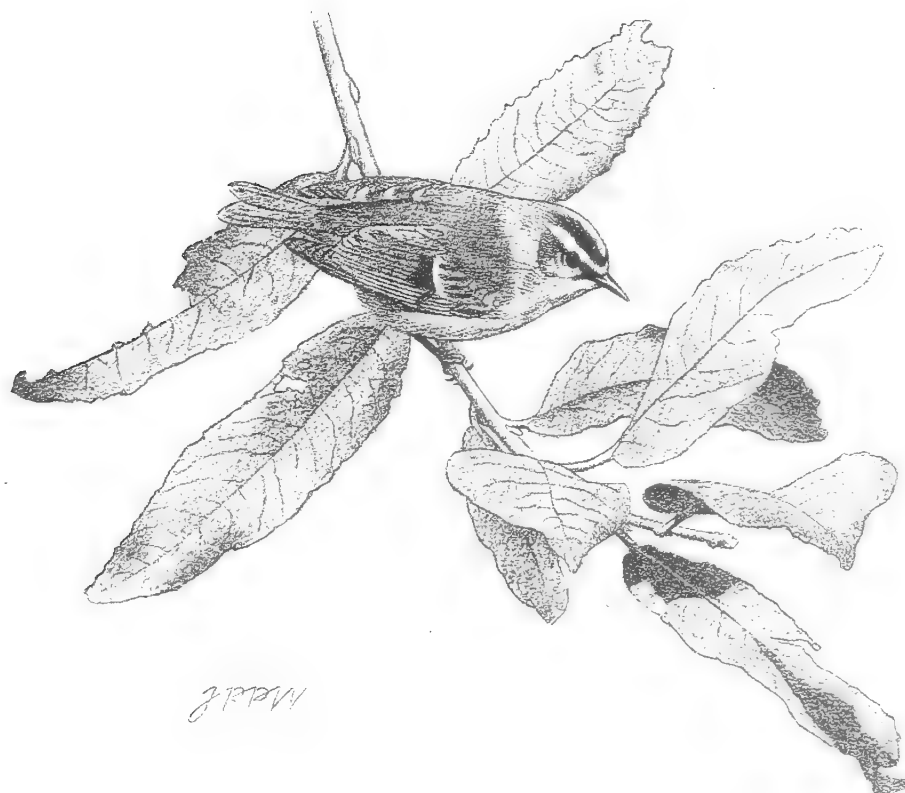
- Essex Bedfords Park, 25 on Nov 6th. Dagenham Chase, 16 on Nov 12th. Havering CP (6). Ongar Park Wood (7). Rainham Marshes, 16 on Oct 15th. Thorndon CP, 20 on Nov 28th. Warley Place NR, 25 on Oct 18th. Weald CP (9), 20 on Oct 14th.
- Herts Bricket Wood Area (5). Broxbourne Woods, 25+ on Nov 23rd. Cheshunt (1). Cheshunt South Res (1). Emmanuel Pollards Car Park (1). Hilfield Park Res (9). Northaw Great Wood, 17 on Nov 20th. Rickmansworth (1). Rye Meads RSPB, 30 on Oct 30th and Nov 15th. St Albans (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1).
- Middx Brent Res (4), 20 on Oct 16th. Bushy Park, 20 on Nov 9th. Grovelands Park (2). Little Britain Lake (1). Oakwood Park (1). Totteridge (7). Trent Park (10).
- Bucks Horton GP (1). Orlitts Lake (1). Wraysbury GP (2).
- Kent Danson Park (2). Foots Cray Woods (1). Lullingstone Lake/Park (1). Sevenoaks WR (1).
- Surrey Bookham Common (5). Chessington (1). Epsom (1). Epsom Common (1). Esher Common (1). Ewell (1). Headley Hill (1). Hook (1). Horton CP (2). Kingston upon Thames (1). London Wetland Centre (2), 30 on Oct 10th. Merstham (1). R. Hogsmill (Riverside OS) (2), 18 on Oct 18th. Sanderstead (2). West End Common (3), 23+ on Nov 16th. Wimbledon Common (30), 15 on Oct 11th.
- In Lond Kensington Gardens (2). Little Venice (1). Regent's Park (8). St James's Park, six on Oct 11th.

1315 Firecrest***Regulus ignicapillus***

Status: scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; rare breeder.

As many as 70 different birds were recorded this year. These were fairly evenly split with 34 in the period Jan to early Apr, and 36 from the end of Sept on. The only reports of breeding were two territories in Essex and a singing bird in late May in Herts.

- Essex Bedfords Park, singles on Oct 23rd, Nov 4th and 8th. Corbetts Tey, one on Jan 24th. Cornmill Meadows, one on Dec 7th. Dagenham Chase, 1-4 in Jan. Fairlop Waters, one on Jan 11th. Great Warley, up to four in Jan and on Feb 11th, one on Oct 18th. Harold Hill, one in a garden on Dec 26th. Hayes Hill Farm, one on Feb 14th. Ingrebourne Valley, two on Nov 18th and one on 24th. Rainham Marshes, 1-2 from Oct 15th-28th, up to three in Nov and one in Dec. Romford, singles on Sept 21st and Nov 12th. Valentines Park, one on Nov 6th. Warley, one on Feb 28th, three on Oct 31st and Nov 3rd and two on 10th. Warley Gap, 1-2 in Jan and Feb. Warley Place NR, singles on Feb 9th and



- Oct 29th, four on 31st and two on Nov 1st and 30th. Warren Gorge, one on Oct 18th. Weald Park, two in Jan and Feb, 1–2 from Oct to Dec.
- Herts Bowyer's GP, singles on Mar 29th and Dec 13th. Broxbourne Woods, one singing on May 29th. Hatfield, one on Dec 19th. Old Hatfield, one on Mar 27th, Apr 6th, Oct 15th, Nov 22nd and 30th, and Dec 12th. Rye Meads RSPB, one on Jan 2nd and 3rd. Seventy Acres Lake, one on Feb 14th.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, one on Feb 2nd, three ringed on Mar 7th and a pair in Dec. Middlesex FB, one on Apr 1st. Trent Park, one from Nov 30th to Dec 28th with two on 22nd.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, one on Nov 13th, one trapped on Dec 11th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, one from Mar 7th-21st.
- Surrey Beaulieu Heights Wood, one in Nov. London Wetland Centre, one on Sept 25th. Morden Hall Park, one on Jan 29th. Riverside Open Space, one on Oct 18th. Sanderstead, one on Mar 5th. Stambourne Woodland Walk, three on Mar 8th. Thorpe Water Park, one on Jan 5th. Wimbledon Common, one singing on Apr 2nd and 12th, one on Sept 28th and Oct 14th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Nov 12th and 15th (ARD, DJ).

1335 Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

Status: declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Evidence of breeding was only recorded at 11 sites. This compares with 19 sites in 2003, itself an all time low. Spring passage was light with only 19 records. The first was on Apr 24th, when two were at Bushey but no more were reported until May 4th when one was at KGV Res. The rest of the passage was from May 11th to June 14th. Autumn passage ran from July 10th to Sept 29th when the last was seen at Chalfont Park. The highest counts were 12 at Thorndon CP on Aug 25th, eight at North Mymms Park on Aug

15th and 30th, seven at Bedfords Park on Sept 3rd and six at Kensington Gardens on Aug 25th.

All breeding reports are given below (pairs/territories in brackets), plus records of migrants in Inner London.

- Essex Passingford Bridge (2). Weald CP (2).
 Herts Amwell GP (1). Bricket Wood/Common (1). Cassiobury Park (1). Chorley Wood Common (1). Hertford City Hall (1). North Mymms Park (1).
 Middx Ruislip Common (1). Trent Park (1).
 Surrey Wandsworth Common (1).
 In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, six on Aug 25th, two on 26th, three on Sept 12th and two on 23rd. Regent's Park, one on May 9th; autumn passage began with five birds on Aug 22nd with the last sighting on Sept 27th.

1349 Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Status: passage migrant in variable numbers.

About 22 birds were recorded, all in the autumn apart from one in spring.

- Essex Bedfords Park, singles on Aug 12th and 15th and Sept 4th. Chingford, one in a garden on Aug 23rd (HLy). Hainault Forest CP, one on Aug 21st. Hermon Hill, Wanstead, singles on Apr 13th and Aug 9th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Aug 21st. Rainham Marshes, singles on Sept 16th and 21st. South Woodford, singles on Aug 24th and Sept 7th-8th. Thorndon CP, one on Aug 18th and 19th. Weald CP, five on Aug 11th, three on 12th-13th, five on 14th, one on 15th, three on 16th and two on 17th.
 Herts Cheshunt GP, one on Aug 14th (GJW). Seventy Acres Lake, one on Sept 26th (MD). St Albans, one on Sept 13th-14th (PL).
 Middx Alexandra Park, singles on Sept 11th and 23rd (AGr, JPr). Brent Res, singles on Aug 10th and Sept 4th (ASMS). Hanwell, one in a garden on Sept 13th (CDRJ). Middlesex FB, one on Sept 16th (GJ).
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, a male trapped on Aug 7th (RRG).
 Surrey London Wetland Centre, singles on Sept 30th (MW) and Oct 19th (DMk). Tooting Common, one on Aug 4th (PDW).
 In Lond Regent's Park, a good autumn showing from Aug 9th-Sept 10th with a maximum of three birds on Aug 12th and 13th (ARD, DJ).

1364 Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Status: rare autumn and winter visitor, very rare breeder.

There were no breeding season records this year. Records came from six sites, the largest numbers being at Rainham Marshes with a maximum of 11 on Nov 29th. There was also a long staying pair at Beddington SF which overwintered from 2003. All records are given below.

- Essex Beckton SW, one on Jan 4th (DMn). Berwick Ponds, one on Feb 24th (RMO). Dagenham Chase, two on Oct 8th (VHF). Rainham Marshes, two on Jan 25th and Feb 22nd; three on Sept 30th; two on Oct 2nd; one on Nov 7th, two on

12th, three on 15th and 24th, two on 27th and 11 on 29th; four on Dec 4th, one on 15th and 24th, and two on 29th (mo).

- Herts Seventy Acres Lake, one from Nov 2nd-11th with two on 7th (mo).
 Surrey Beddington SF, the pair from 2003 were seen up to Jan 25th and then again on Mar 16th (BFBG).

2003 Additional records.

- Surrey Beddington SF, one flew over on Oct 18th (GDJM). On Nov 3rd a pair were ringed which then wintered at the site (MN, NG).

1437 Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Status: common and widespread breeding resident.

Records of more than 40 birds, and of three or more breeding territories are given below (pairs/territories in brackets), together with Inner London records.

- Essex Bedfords Park (15), 50 on Dec 1st. Ingrebourne Valley (6). Nazeing GP, 42 on Nov 2nd. Birds showing characteristics of the northern race were at Waltham Abbey Arboretum (paired with a UK bird) from Apr 17th-23rd (ADW) and at Warley from Feb 23rd-26th (CJ).
 Herts Cheshunt GP (7+). Rye Meads RSPB (14).
 Middx Few records received, the largest numbers were 20 at Bushy Park on Jan 27th and Hounslow Heath on Nov 21st.
 Bucks Farlows Lake (3). Horton GP (4).
 Kent Fooks Cray Woods (3). Ruxley GP (5). Sevenoaks WR, 50 on Jan 23rd.
 Surrey Bookham Common (8). London Wetland Centre (5). Molesey Heath (3). West End Common (7). Wimbledon Common, 40+ on Aug 31st.
 In Lond Buckingham Palace, 20 on Jan 30th. Hyde Park, 16 on Sept 25th. Kensington Gardens (3), 12 on Oct 18th. Regent's Park (10+). St. James's Park, 14 on Sept 22nd and 10 on Dec 2nd. Tate Gallery, nine on Sept 29th.

1462 Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Few records were received; number of territories in brackets.

- Essex Ingrebourne Valley (24). Larkswold, Chingford (41). Rainham Marshes, 30 on Oct 27th. Roding Valley Park (10). Valentines Park (10), 55 on Dec 11th.
 Herts Beech Farm GP, 30 on Aug 29th. Brookmans Park, 70 on Aug 22nd. Bushey, 28 on Apr 24th. North Mymms Park, 40 on Nov 5th. Northaw Great Wood, 55 on Nov 20th. Rye Meads RSPB (18).
 Middx Alexandra Park, a pair nested in the petrol tank of an old motor mower. Trent Park, 50 on Feb 28th.
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, 46 trapped in Sept.
 Kent Sevenoaks WR, 50 on Dec 1st.
 Surrey Arbrook Common (23). Ashtead Common, 30 on Dec 11th. Beddington SF (6). Cannon Hill Common, 35 on Jan 3rd. Croydon, 50 in a garden in Nov. Epsom Common, 50 on Dec 11th. Esher Common, (5). Ewell, 70 on Oct 9th. Fishponds LNR (6). Godstone Bay Pond, 29 on Feb 24th. Horton CP, 40 on

July 23rd. London Wetland Centre (5), 30 on Oct 16th. Molesey Heath (5). Riverside OS, 45 on Oct 9th. R. Mole, Leatherhead (21). The Ledges, Esher (13), 53 on Jan 18th. Tolworth, 60 on Oct 8th. West End Common (23), 37 on Feb 7th. Wimbledon Common, 50 on Aug 31st.

In Lond Buckingham Palace (2). Kensington Gardens (6–7). St Paul's Cathedral (1). Tate Modern (1).

1464 Great Tit

Parus major

Status: abundant breeding resident.

Number of territories in brackets and high counts are given.

Essex Bedfords Park, 25 on Dec 1st. Ingrebourne Valley (17). Larkswood, Chingford (26). Roding Valley Park (12). Valentines Park (5), 23 on Dec 5th.

Herts Hilfield Park Res, "breeding in good numbers". North Mymms Park, 42 on Nov 28th. Northaw Great Wood, 40 on Nov 20th. Rye Meads RSPB (28).

Middx Trent Park, 40 on Feb 28th.

Bucks Wraysbury GP, 36 trapped in Sept.

Surrey Arbrook Common (7). Ashtead Common, 25 on Dec 11th. Beddington SF (23), 22 on July 28th. Epsom Common, 40 on Dec 11th. Esher (2). Esher Common (3). Fishponds LNR (2). Horton CP, 30 on July 23rd. Molesey Heath (14), 30 on Dec 30th. Riverside OS (2). R. Mole, Leatherhead (15). The Ledges, Esher (7). Tooting Common, 21 on July 17th. Wandsworth Common, 24 on July 11th. West End Common, Esher (14).

In Lond Buckingham Palace (5). Hyde Park (2). Kensington Gardens (4–6). Millbank Gardens (1). Smith Square (1).

1461 Coal Tit

Periparus ater

Status: common breeding species.

Very few breeding records were received; number of territories in brackets. Any breeding records would be very welcome.

Essex Bedfords Park (3). Epping Forest (20 at three sites). Havering CP (10). Loughton (1). Thorndon CP (3). Weald CP (8).

Herts Mundens Estate, Watford (3). Present in the breeding season at Beech Farm GP, Essendon, North Mymms Park (nine seen on June 1st), and St Albans. Northaw Great Wood, eight on Dec 11th. Rickmansworth (1).

Middx Brent Res (1). Bushy Park (1).

Kent Present in the breeding season at Danson Park and Sevenoaks WR,

Surrey London Wetland Centre (1). West End Common, Esher (3). Wimbledon Common (43). Worcester Park (1). Also present in the breeding season at Arbrook Common, Esher Common, Horton CP, Oakshot Heath, Princes Coverts, and The Lodges, Esher.

In Lond Buckingham Palace (1). Green Park, one on Sept 3rd. Hyde Park, one on Aug 26th. Kensington Gardens (1). Regent's Park (6). St James's Park, "up to six from May-Sept".

- 1442 Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*
 Status: very scarce and probably now a former breeding resident.
 No records received this year for the first time ever.
- 1440 Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*
 Status: localised breeding resident.
 All breeding season records and sightings of two or more birds are given below. In addition all records are given for Essex, Kent and Middx where very few records were received.
- Essex Theydon Bois GC, one on Jan 10th. Wintry Wood, one on Jan 12th.
 Herts Amwell GP, two on Aug 7th and Dec 29th. Brookmans Park, reported Jan-Mar and Aug-Dec, with max of four on Feb 22nd. Broxbourne Woods, three on Nov 20th and 23rd and on Dec 6th, five on Dec 11th. Bushey, two on May 3rd. Cassiobury Park, one pair bred. Chorley Wood Common, two on Aug 30th. Essendon, two on Apr 8th, one on May 8th and three on Oct 12th. Gobions Wood, two on Mar 14th, Sept 25th, Dec 7th and 28th. Hatfield Park, three on Nov 10th. Little Berkhamstead, three on Oct 12th. North Mymms Park, present in breeding season with max of three on Apr 3rd. Northaw Wood, 11 on Nov 20th and 10+ on Dec 20th. Panshanger Park, two on Nov 14th. Tyttenhanger GP "recorded in most months". Whippendell Woods, one on Apr 16th. Wormley Woods, two on Mar 30th.
- Middx Harrow Weald Common, one on Mar 21st. Whitewebbs Wood/Lake, 1-2 seen throughout year.
- Kent High Elms CP, one on July 11th. Lullingstone Lake/Park, two on Sept 19th. Sevenoaks WR, one on Sept 4th.
- Surrey Bookham Common, 14 territories in census area. Chelsham, two on Feb 10th and Apr 9th. Croydon, two reported at two different gardens for most of the year. Epsom, two on June 20th. Ewell, three on Oct 22nd. Headley Heath, two on Mar 21st. Horton CP, two on Mar 15th and 19th and Dec 27th. Sanderstead, present in breeding season. Moorhouse, "could have bred". Woldingham, pair at nest hole on Apr 9th.
- 1479 Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*
 Status: common breeding resident.
 Recorded from only 73 sites, compared with 91 in 2003 which could be evidence of a decline. More records would be welcome.
- Essex Bedfords Park, four on Nov 6th. Epping Forest (6). Harold Hill, three on Feb 9th. Ongar Park Wood (4). Thorndon CP, four on Mar 26th. Warley Gap, three on Jan 9th. Weald CP (7).
- Herts Bricket Wood area, pair preparing nest hole on Apr 5th. Brookmans Park, present in breeding season and seven on Aug 7th. Cassiobury Park, three on Feb 12th and Mar 20th. Chess Valley, three on Nov 27th. Essendon, three on Dec 26th. Hatfield Park, eight on Nov 28th. North Mymms Park, four on Dec

- 4th. Northaw Great Wood, 15 on Nov 20th. Panshanger Park (4). Post Wood (1). Tyttenhanger GP, present in breeding season.
- Middx Bushy Park, eight on Jan 27th. Hillyfields Park, Enfield three on Feb 26th. Enfield Town Park, three on June 12th. Forty Hall, three on Feb 11th. Grovelands Park (3), five on June 1st. Trent Park (10), 13 on Feb 9th.
- Kent Danson Park, present in breeding season.
- Surrey Addington Hills, present all year. Arbrook Common, present in breeding season. Banstead Wood, eight on Dec 5th. Bookham Common (14 in census area). Epsom Common, present in breeding season. Ewell (2). Horton CP, present in the breeding season. R. Hogsmill (Riverside OS) (1). R. Mole, Leatherhead (3). Sanderstead Plantation, present all year. The Ledges, Esher present during breeding season. West End Common, present during the breeding season. Wimbledon Common (12+, almost half last year's total). Worcester Park, present during the breeding season.
- In Lond Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, singles on Aug 11th and Nov 22nd. Regent's Park, one from July 19th-26th.

1486 Treecreeper***Certhia familiaris***

Status: common breeding resident.

- Essex Bedfords Park (4). Havering CP (5). Ongar Park Wood (6). Thorndon CP (3). Weald CP (7).
- Herts Brickendonbury, one present in breeding season. Brookmans Park, one present during breeding season and three on Dec 28th. Cassiobury Park, three on Feb 12th and Mar 20th. Gobians Wood, three on Dec 28th. Haberdashers Girls School, eight on Mar 3rd, including singing male. Hatfield Park, three on Nov 28th. Hilfield Park Res, resident. Maple Lodge NR (1). North Mymms Park, three on Feb 28th, and on Dec 10th. Northaw Great Wood, three on Dec 11th. Tyttenhanger GP, "frequent".
- Middx Bushy Park, four on Jan 27th. Forty Hall, five on Feb 26th. Trent Park (14). Whitewebbs Wood/Lake, four on Feb 26th.
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, five trapped in Sept.
- Kent Farningham Woods (3). Sevenoaks WR, present all year, nine on June 2nd.
- Surrey Arbrook Common, present in breeding season. Bookham Common (5). Esher Common, present in the breeding season. Richmond Park (1). Sanderstead (2). The Ledges, Esher, present during the breeding season. West End Common (1). Wimbledon Common (25).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace, one on June 30th. Kensington Gardens (1). Regent's Park, one all year.

1490 Penduline Tit***Remiz pendulinus***

Status: rare vagrant

- Essex Rainham Marshes, three adults on Dec 29th (HV).

Accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee. The fourth record for London and the first since three at Brent Res on 2nd Nov 1996.

- 1508 Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*
 Status: rare passage migrant, most often in May.
- Middx Bushy Park, one, a probable first-summer male seen twice and heard singing on May 5th, 6th and 8th (MWK, DHy).
- 1539 Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*
 Status: common breeding resident, with numbers boosted by immigrants in autumn and winter.
- A common species, and typically under-recorded. All breeding records (with numbers of pairs/territories in brackets) together with counts of more than ten at other times of the year are given below, along with all Inner London records.
- Essex Havering CP (8). Larkswood, Chingford (4). Ongar Park Wood (3). Wanstead Park (5).
- Herts Cheshunt GP (4). North Mimms Park, 14 on Oct 8th. Rye Mead RSPB (1). Stanstead Abbots GP (1). Tyttenhanger GP (1).
- Middx Ruislip Common, 30 on Nov 28th.
- Kent Crayford, 10+ on Oct 24th.
- Surrey Arbrook Common (3). Esher Common (3). London Wetland Centre, a juvenile on Aug 25th suggesting local breeding. Molesey Heath (1). R. Hogsmill (Riverside OS), 14+ on 9th Oct. West End Common (4).
- In Lond Battersea Bridge, singles on Apr 7th and June 4th. Buckingham Palace (1). Hyde Park (1). Kensington Gardens, three on Nov 22nd. Pimlico, one on Apr 14th and 29th. Vauxhall Bridge, two on Apr 15th.
- 1549 Magpie** *Pica pica*
 Status: abundant breeding resident.
- Ubiquitous and yet under-recorded. The very few breeding records received are given below (number of breeding pairs in brackets), and also the highest counts in each county.
- Essex Ingrebourne Valley (11). Larkswood, Chingford (12+). Rainham Marshes (10), 33 on Dec 29th. Roding Valley Park (5). Valentines Park, 35 on July 30th. Walthamstow Res, 45 on Dec 5th.
- Herts Bowyers GP (7). Brookmans Park, up to 27. Essendon, up to 32. Ellenbrook, Hatfield, 27 on Jan 15th. Maple Lodge NR, 34 on Nov 17th. North Mymms Park, 30 on Oct 8th. Rickmansworth, 26+ on Feb 29th.
- Middx Alexandra Park, 41 on Jan 27th. Brent Res, 43 on Jan 24th. Cranford, 28 on Aug 2nd. Trent Park, 35 on Feb 28th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 29 on Dec 31st.
- Surrey Arbrook Common (2). Beddington SF, 23 on Dec 14th. Bookham Common (6, in partial census). Cannon Hill Common (5). Esher Common (5). London Wetland Centre, 30 on Oct 18th. Molesey Heath (8). R. Mole, Leatherhead (11). The Ledges, Esher (4). West End Common (5).
- In Lond Buckingham Palace (1). Kensington Gardens (1). Tate Modern (1).

1560 Jackdaw***Corvus monedula***

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant; much scarcer in urban areas.

Breeding records, large flocks, all sizeable visible migration and Inner London records are listed.

- Essex Bedfords Park, 300 on Jan 14th, 150 on Oct 12th. Copped Hall, 200+ on Sept 12th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 350 on Dec 21st. Sewardstone Marsh, 500 on Jan 4th. Weald Park (65), 180 on Jan 8th. Walthamstow Res, 69 N on Oct 10th.
- Herts Amwell GP, roost of 500 on Sept 28th. Beech Farm GP, roost of 1,000 to 3,000 on several dates in Oct and Nov. Brookmans Park, 260 on Nov 14th. Hatfield Park, 200 on Dec 4th. Hilfield Park Res, 300 on Jan 17th. Rye Meads RSPB, 300 on Nov 6th. St Albans, c300 E on July 1st. Tyttenhanger GP, 200+ on Jan 31st.
- Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, roost of 1,000+ on Jan 1st. Broadwater Lake, 500 on Dec 31st. Park Farm, Enfield, 300 on Aug 25th.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, 600+ throughout Nov & Dec, 1100 on Dec 22nd.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 4,500–5,000 on Nov 22nd. Beddlestead Valley, 500 on Feb 21st. Chasemoor Farm, 320 on Jan 19th. Hersham GP, 500 on Nov 23rd. Horton CP, 400 on Mar 15th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Mar 9th and 31st, two on Oct 9th and singles on Nov 3rd and 7th. St James's Park, one on Apr 27th.

1563 Rook***Corvus frugilegus***

Status: common breeding resident, scarce in urban areas.

The table gives the number of rookeries reported in each county and the overall number of nests counted.

| | <i>Essex</i> | <i>Herts</i> | <i>Bucks</i> | <i>Kent</i> | <i>Surrey</i> |
|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Sites | 4 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Nests | 413+ | 198 | 114 | 55 | 71 |

High counts and records from localities where this species does not normally occur are given below.

- Essex Aveley, 100 on Oct 1st.
- Herts Oaklands, St. Albans, 120 on Nov 5th. Rye Meads RSPB, 150 on Oct 10th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 62 on Jan 6th.

1567 Carrion Crow***Corvus corone***

Status: abundant breeding resident.

As usual, very few breeding birds were noted or counted. The following summary gives annual maxima for localities with counts of 100 or more, as well as all Inner London records.

- Essex Barking Park, 149 on Oct 14th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 200 on June 30th. Ingrebourne Valley (10). Rainham Marshes, 350 on Dec 30th. Valentines

Park, 120 on Oct 9th. Walthamstow Res, 120+ on Dec 5th. Wanstead Flats, 400+ all year.

Herts Amwell GP, 100 roosting on Feb 6th. Brookmans Park, 100 on Oct 28th.

Middx Brent Res, 180 on Jan 24th.

Kent Danson Park, 104 on Aug 11th. Sevenoaks WR, 160 on May 5th.

Surrey Beddington SF, 398 on Dec 14th. Beddlestead Farm, 100 on Mar 1st. Chelsham, 100 on Apr 9th. London Wetland Centre, 167 on Jan 26th. R. Hogsmill (Riverside OS), 134 on July 24th. Wimbledon Common, 100+ on Nov 1st.

In Lond Kensington Gardens, 100 on Sept 25th. Regent's Park, up to 90. St. James Park, 88 on Jan 21st.

1572 Raven *Corvus corax*

Status: very rare visitor.

Herts Hatfield Park, one on Nov 12th, two on 25th (MFs) and Nov 28th (RPh). St. Albans, two flew W calling at 11.15 on Dec 25th (PW).

A good year, as this species averages approximately one accepted sighting per decade. All records are assumed to relate to the same two birds. There have now been 20 records (of 25 birds) in the London Area.

1582 Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Status: very common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The extremely large roosts of yore seem to have completely disappeared, though the species is still a common sight. The following shows the largest flocks seen in each county, though no counts were received from Bucks, and no notable counts were received from the Kent sector.

Essex Grays, 1,200 on July 21st. Rainham Marshes, 1,000 on July 16th, 4,000 over on Oct 27th, 3,500 on Dec 30th. Walthamstow Res, 1204 on July 17th.

Herts Coursers Farm, 400 on Sept 7th. Essendon, 400 on Oct 12th. Little Berkhamstead, 400 on Oct 12th. Rye Meads RSPB, 600 on Oct 16th. Tyttenhanger GP, 400 on Sept 7th.

Middx Tottenham Marsh, 500 on Aug 7th.

Surrey Beddington SF, 728 on Nov 4th. London Wetland Centre, 1290 over on Oct 20th. R. Hogsmill (Riverside OS), 799 over on Oct 9th.

In Lond Kensington Gardens, 100 on Sept 12th and 20th. Regent's Park, 400 W on Oct 19th. Vauxhall Bridge, 200 on Oct 22nd.

1591 House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Status: breeding resident, declining.

This is now quite a rare bird in all areas in the inner built-up zone of central London. Very few if any are now found in most of the Royal Parks and Gardens, and it is no longer seen in places such as Hampstead Heath. It is

still regularly seen in areas further out from the centre, although nowhere near as commonly as ten years ago.

In an attempt to monitor its status in 2004, all reported localities of occurrence are given below. The figures that follow each locality are either the peak annual count (above 10) or the number of displaying males in the breeding season (the figure shown in brackets). All Inner London records are given, where the species' radical decline is well-known.

- Essex Chafford Hundred (6). Chingford (108 in partial survey). Collier Row (8). Corbets Tey (6). Harold Hill, 65. Rainham Marshes, 36. South Weald, 22. Valentines Park, 45.
- Herts Brookmans Park, 13. Cheshunt, roost of 50+ (55+). Hatfield, 18. London Colney, 20. Maple Lodge NR (2+). Rochford Estate, Turnford, c25. Stocker's Farm, 12. Tyttenhanger GP, 35. Wall Hall, 30.
- Middx Brent Res, 10. Hampton 40. Hampton Court Pk, 11. Stanwell Moor (1). Tottenham Marsh, c10. Wood Green, 32.
- Kent Bexley, 40. Crayford, 180.
- Surrey Addington, "present and increasing". Beddington SF, 54. Beverley Park, 20. Bourne Hall Pond, Ewell (2). Burghfield, Epsom, 12. Carshalton, 30+. Croydon, Holmesdale Rd, c60. Ewell (1). Kenley, "breeding in numbers". Kingston-upon-Thames, 25+. London Wetland Centre, 30 (1+). Manor Park, 30. R. Hogsmill (Riverside OS) (2). Surbiton, Berrylands Road, 22. Surbiton, Norton Road, 10. Telegraph Hill (Claygate) (2). Thames Ditton, c36. Walton-on-Thames, 40. Wandsworth Common, 20. Wimbledon, 20+. Wimbledon Common, 12.
- In Lond Battersea Bridge (2-3). Bernie Spain Gardens (1+), six. Duchy Street SE1 (c10), 15-20. London Zoo, resident. Millbank Gardens, one. Neal Street, Covent Garden, five. Regent's Park, one on Oct 5th. South Bank SE1, one. Tate Modern, one. Waterloo, three. Westbourne Grove, two.

1598 Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

Status: scarce and local breeding resident, population probably still declining.

Herts and Beddington SF are still this species' stronghold, largely reliant on the continued provision of nestboxes. The previous year's once in a decade winter peak at Beddington was not improved upon. All records are given (number of breeding pairs in brackets).

- Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, four on Jan 11th, otherwise 1-2 in Jan and Feb, with one on Oct 24th. Rainham Marshes, three S on Oct 5th. Walthamstow Res, six N on Oct 9th.
- Herts Coursers Lane Fields (7), 18 on Jan 24th. North Mymms Park, 16 on Nov 14th. Tyttenhanger Farm/GP (7), up to 41 throughout.
- Surrey Beddington SF, up to 150 throughout, 81 territories, 145 nesting attempts and 548 pulli hatched. A slight decline from last year in numbers outside the breeding season was noted. Placehouse Lane, Old Croydon, two in June.

1636 Chaffinch*Fringilla coelebs*

Status: common breeding resident, augmented by continental influxes in autumn and winter.

Overall, there were 59 instances of groups exceeding 50 individuals and 15 counts of 100 birds or more. There was a strong autumn passage from Sept 24th to Oct 29th, including 564 over the Wetland Centre on Oct 8th and 485 there on Oct 15th—the two largest counts of the year. Reports of nesting pairs or territories exceeded 172, with the Surrey sector contributing the majority of the large populations. Counts of 50 or more (or sector maxima where lower) are given, together with notable breeding season reports (territories or breeding pairs in brackets) and all inner London records received.

- Essex Bedfords Park, 50 on Oct 13th and 15th. Harold Hill, 70 on Jan 27th, 60 on Feb 27th. Havering CP (20). Holyfield Hall Farm, 95 on Jan 4th. Rainham Marshes, 65 on Oct 9th. South Weald, 100 on Feb 18th and 22nd, 250 on Mar 14th. Theydon Bois, 50 on Feb 22nd. Warley, 50 on Nov 1st.
- Herts Amwell GP, 50 on Feb 6th and 120 on 8th. Brookmans Park, 110 on Feb 21st and 85 on 22nd, 50 on Nov 3rd. Bushey Hall, 60 on Jan 4th. Hatfield Park, 70 on Nov 28th, 100 on Dec 4th. Hilfield Park Res (16–18). Lynsters Farm, 200+ on Feb 19th. Maple Lodge NR, 100 on Jan 7th, 100 on Mar 10th. North Mymms Park, a sudden influx of 65 on Sept 24th and 29th; 50 on Oct 17th and 25th; 60 on Nov 14th and 50 on 28th; 50 on Dec 10th. Potters Crouch, 80 on Mar 7th. Rye Meads RSPB (14), 50 on Jan 10th, 62 on Oct 9th,.
- Middx Brent Res, 53 on Oct 9th was the only sizeable sector count.
- Bucks There were just four reports, all from Wraysbury GP, where the largest gathering was of 32 on Sept 1st.
- Kent Jubilee Park, Bickley, 125 on Jan 19th. Sevenoaks WR, 95 on Feb 4th, 62 on 7th and 79 on 8th; 60 on Mar 13th; 50 on Dec 18th, 60 on 30th and 65 on 31st. Swanscombe Marsh, 60 on Mar 7th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, 80 on Jan 20th. Bookham Common (22, in partial census). London Wetland Centre, significant autumn passage with 54 on Sept 28th and in Oct—52 on 2nd, 75 on 4th, 564 on 8th, 485 on 15th, 98 on 16th, 157 on 17th, 135 on 18th, 73 on 19th, 78 on 20th, 84 on 22nd, 107 on 24th, 54 on 26th and 53 on 29th. Molesey Heath (16). R. Mole, Leatherhead (39). Rushett Farm, 230 on Jan 3rd. West End Common, Esher (16), 80 on Jan 20th.
- In Lond Holland Park (1+). Hyde Park, one singing on June 1st. Kensington Gardens (7). Little Venice, a singing male in June.

1638 Brambling*Fringilla montifringilla*

Status: regular autumn migrant and winter visitor, sometimes in large numbers.

There were around 200 reports from 81 sites, with roughly twice as many records in Jan-Apr compared with the period Oct-Dec. The latest departing bird of the spring was at Cheshunt GP on Apr 28th. The first of the autumn was at Amwell GP on Oct 3rd with a more general arrival from Oct 9th. The

largest group reported was of 80 at Beddlestead Farm on Mar 1st. All double figure counts or sector maxima (where lower), plus a summary of other records and all inner London occurrences are given below.

- Essex Copt Hall Warren, 10 on Dec 28th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 12 on Feb 1st. Rainham Marshes, 25 on Oct 9th. There were 50 additional reports of 1–8 birds from 16 sites.
- Herts Amwell GP, max of 10 recorded on several occasions between Feb 3rd and Apr 7th, 10 on Oct 10th. Hatfield Park, 11+ on Dec 4th. There were 75 additional records of 1–6 birds from 22 sites.
- Middx There were just nine reports from seven sites with maxima of six at Hampstead Heath on Nov 20th and five at Fernyhill Farm on Mar 23rd. All other records were of single birds.
- Bucks Five reports from three sites, with maxima of 12 at Wraysbury GP on Apr 11th and 22 on Apr 14th.
- Kent There were just seven reports from five sites, all singles apart from two at Sevenoaks WR on Feb 4th. All of the records came from the first winter period.
- Surrey Beddlestead Farm, 80 feeding with c25 Chaffinch on Mar 1st. London Wetland Centre, 13 flew NW on Oct 18th. There were 52 additional reports of 1–9 birds from 27 sites.
- In Lond Regents Park, one from Jan 30th-Mar 29th with two on 17th and singles on Oct 9th and 31st.

1649 Greenfinch

Carduelis chloris

Status: common breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were six reports of groups exceeding 100 birds, but a flock of up to 300 developed at Hampstead Heath in Sept and Oct. Only 74–77 pairs/territories were reported, which is likely to be just a fraction of the actual population. A significant visible migration took place over the Surrey sector in Oct. Site maxima of 25 or more are reported below, along with selected breeding records (pairs/territories in brackets) and all Inner London records.

- Essex Harold Hill, 120 on Jan 27th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 50 on Sept 29th. Ingrebourne Valley (19), 35 on Nov 24th. Rainham Marshes, 75 on Dec 12th. South Hornchurch, 48 on Feb 6th. South Weald, 30 on Feb 12th and 22nd. Valentines Park, 29 on Dec 11th. Warley Gap, 67 on Dec 6th. Weald Park, 38 on Jan 3rd.
- Herts Amwell GP, 30 on May 7th. Beech Farm GP, 45 on Mar 7th, 40 on Sept 25th. Hilfield Park Res (2–5). Panshanger Park, 45 on Nov 28th. Rye Meads RSPB (11), 40 on Feb 21st, 50 on Oct 16th, 50 on Dec 8th. Tyttenhanger GP, 25 on Feb 15th.
- Middx Hampstead Heath, 300 in Sept and Oct. Hounslow Heath, 50 on Nov 25th. Ruislip, 32 roosting on Jan 25th.
- Bucks The only reports referred to birds trapped at Wraysbury GP—12 in July, two in Aug and 14 in Sept.
- Kent Bexley, 110 on Sept 13th. Dartford Marsh, 45+ on Aug 1st.

- Surrey Beddington SF (9). Bookham Common (5). Cannon Hill Common (2). Cobham, c.40 on Dec 31st. Croham Hurst, 30+ on Oct 10th. Island Barn Res, c30 on Nov 18th. London Wetland Centre, in Oct, 82 on 5th, 68 on 6th, 61 on 7th, 60 on 15th, 52 on 18th and 88 on 26th, mostly visible migrants; 25 on Nov 5th and 15th; and 34 on Dec 9th. Molesley Heath (19). Nork Park, 100 on Oct 24th. R. Hogsmill, Riverside OS, visible migration included 134 on Oct 9th and 45 on 31st. River Hogsmill, West Ewell, 27 on Dec 29th. Raeburn OS, Surbiton, 25 on Feb 26th. Ridlands, Moorhouse, 80 on Aug 12th. The Oaks Park, Carshalton, 150 on Nov 13th. Trevereux, 65 on Dec 20th.
- In Lond Kensington Gardens (1), two singing in Apr. Southbank, one on Apr 14th. St. Paul's; Cathedral (1). Tate Modern (1).

1653 Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*
 Status: fairly common breeding resident and passage migrant.

There were 10 reports of 100 or more birds and a further 23 counts of 50 or more. The maximum counts were 150 birds at Stocker's Lake in Dec and Stanwell Moor in Aug. Passage was noted over London Wetland Centre and River Hogsmill from Oct 9th-30th, but only 30+ breeding pairs/territories were reported. Site maxima of 25 or more, all Inner London records and a selection of breeding records (pairs/territories in brackets) are given below.

- Essex Cranham Marsh, 35 on Oct 10th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 30 on Dec 21st. Pages Farm, 50 on Oct 9th. Rainham Marshes, 120 on Feb 18th and 25th, 110 on Sept 29th and 117 on Oct 9th. South Weald, 50 on Jan 3rd. Weald Park, 25 on Jan 8th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 35 on Jan 31st. Bencroft Wood, Wormley, 94 on Mar 16th. Croxley Green, 100 on Mar 19th. Rye Meads RSPB, 40 on Apr 12th. Stanborough Lakes, 25 on Feb 7th. Stocker's Lake, 150+ on Dec 31st. Tyttenhanger GP, 40 on Feb 14th, 30 on Nov 28th.
- Middx Park Farm, Enfield, 30 on Sept 15th and 40 on Oct 11th. Stanwell Moor, 150 on Aug 22nd, Tottenham Marsh (3).
- Bucks Farlows Lake (2). Woodlands Park, 35 on Feb 25th. Wraysbury GP, 12 trapped during Sept.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 30 on Aug 14th. Sevenoaks WR, 25 on Feb 1st and 23rd, 45 on Oct 24th, 55 on Nov 8th, 135 on Nov 24th, 60 on Dec 12th. Swanscombe Marsh, 30 on Aug 30th.
- Surrey Beddington SF (2), 46 on Jan 20th, 32 on July 28th, 51 on Oct 6th, 60 on Nov 21st, 30 on Dec 11th. Bookham Common (4+). Croydon, 40 on Oct 1st. Hogsmill SF, c50 on Feb 5th. Holmethorpe SP, 110 on Nov 25th. Horton CP, 28 on Mar 8th, 33 on Aug 9th. London Wetland Centre (2), 29 on Jan 19th; 57 on July 26th; 102 on Oct 15th, 88 on 17th, 83 on 18th, 58 on 22nd, 80 on 23rd, 93 on 24th, 65 on 29th; 50 on Nov 5th; 30 on Dec 18th. R. Hogsmill, Riverside OS, 121 on Oct 18th, 56 on 30th; 47 on Nov 7th, 25 on 22nd. R. Mole, Leatherhead (2). Tolworth, 60 on Mar 9th. Walton Res, 30 on Aug 9th.
- In Lond Battersea Bridge (2+). Hyde Park/Kensington Gardens, 1-2 in Apr and May. Regent's Park (1). Tate Modern, one on Aug 2nd.

1654 Siskin***Carduelis spinus***

Status: common winter visitor, passage migrant and increasingly regular in summer and a potential breeding species.

A poor year, with just three flocks of 100 or more (all in the first winter period) and only 14 additional groups of 50 or more. There were several late spring reports, the latest being two at Welham Green on May 25th. There was, however, an intriguing report of a juvenile in a St. Albans garden on June 17th-19th. In autumn, one was seen at Croxley Green on July 27th, with isolated reports in August before a more general light passage from late September through October. All groups of 25 or more are recorded below.

- Essex Bedfords Park, 25 on Jan 16th. Belhus Woods CP, 30 on Jan 4th and Feb 6th and 28th. Hall Marsh, 100 on Jan 31st and 28 on Mar 27th. Turnford Marsh GP, 120 on Feb 5th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 70 on Jan 31st and 30 on Feb 10th. Brookman's Park, up to 60 in Feb and 50 in Mar. Cheshunt GP, 50 on Jan 24th. Chorleywood, 40 on Mar 13th. Colney Heath, 100 on Jan 5th. Croxley Moor, 40 on Jan 21st. Maple Lodge NR, 50 on Jan 15th and 18th. Panshanger Park, 80 on Jan 25th. Seventy Acres Lake, 30 on Jan 31st. Stocker's Lake, 50 on Jan 1st and 30 on 20th.
- Middx Bentley Priory, 40 on Jan 29th. Broadwater Lake, 25 on Feb 14th and 30 on 18th. Bushy Park, 52 on Jan 27th and 40 on Feb 3rd.
- Bucks Black Park, 40 on Jan 7th, 30 on 20th; and 40 on Dec 13th. Ranston Covert, Denham, 50 on Jan 31st.
- Kent Bexley Wood, 45 on Jan 6th. Sevenoaks WR, up to 50 in Jan and Feb, 60 on Dec 4th.
- Surrey Horton CP, 27 on Mar 8th. London Wetland Centre, 67 on Jan 24th and 48 on 27th; 30 on Feb 11th, 35 on 17th and 30 on 21st.
- In Lond Regent's Park, singles on Feb 11th, Oct 9th and 13th.

1660 Linnet***Carduelis cannabina***

Status: common but declining breeding resident and passage migrant.

An excellent year, with 27 reports exceeding 100 birds. The largest group was of at least 500 at Staines Res on Sept 13th, though 461 flew over the Wetland Centre on Oct 7th, part of an extended passage that lasted from early Oct until mid Nov. Around 60 pairs/territories were reported though data was not received from some well-watched sites. Groups of 50 or more, plus notable breeding season counts (pairs/territories in brackets) are given below.

- Essex Barking Bay, 300 on Oct 22nd. Havering CP (6). Ingrebourne Valley (11), 80 on Oct 14th and 103 on Nov 25th. KGV Res, 80 on Oct 16th. Pages Farm, 80 on Feb 21st, 80 on Oct 9th. Rainham Marshes, 150 on Feb 7th and 100 on 22nd; 140 on Oct 17th; 50 on Nov 14th. Roding Valley Park (6). Theydon Bois, 60 on Feb 22nd. Thorndon CP, 110 on Aug 28th.
- Herts Beech Farm GP, 50+ on Mar 13th. Brookmans Park, 90 on Jan 23rd. Bushey Hall, 60 on Jan 4th. Chiswell Green, 60 on Sept 29th. Nashes Farm, St. Albans, 63 on Sept 25th. Potters Crouch, 100 on Feb 15th and 80 on 22nd;

- 70 on Mar 18th; 150 on Oct 17th. Rye Meads RSPB (6). Tyttenhanger GP, 60 on Jan 1st and 3rd, 50 on 17th; 60 on Feb 7th and 21st; 100 on Oct 16th.
- Middx Parkside Farm/Res, Enfield, 50 on Apr 8th, 114 on Sept 28th, 120 on Oct 1st. Staines Res, maxima of 300 on Aug 28th, 500 on Sept 13th, 100 on Oct 4th and 60 on Nov 27th. Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 50 on Apr 28th. Wormwood Scrubs (10).
- Bucks Woodlands Park GP, 40 on Feb 25th. Wraysbury GP, 40 on Mar 27th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, 100 on Aug 28th, 90 on Sept 26th and 70 on Nov 7th.
- Surrey Beddington SF, maxima of 120 on Jan 29th, 80 on Feb 1st, 80 on Mar 6th, 55 on Nov 4th and 70 on Dec 11th. Beddlestead Farm, 150 on Mar 1st. Cony Brook, Chelsham, 150 on Mar 1st. Epsom, 50 on Dec 6th. Headley Heath, 95 on Feb 18th. Little Woodcote, up to 70 in Dec. London Wetland Centre, visible migration counts included: 63 on Oct 5th, 85 on 6th, 461 on 7th, 240 on 8th, 241 on 17th, 115 on 18th, 59 on 22nd, 126 on 24th and 86 on 30th. Molesey Heath (8). Walton Heath (20). Walton Res, 50 on Dec 20th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, one on Mar 29th and two on Oct 5th.

1662 Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*
 Status: scarce late autumn and winter visitor.

- Surrey Hogsmill SF, one flew NE calling on Jan 26th (NT).

1663 Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*
 Status: former breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

There was only one report of a flock 100 birds and just 15 additional groups of 50 or more, from a total of seven sites. Indeed, one observer summarising the situation at a well-watched site in the Surrey sector, was moved to comment that it was the worst year ever for this species. The last bird of the spring flew over the Wetland Centre on May 2nd and the first birds of the autumn were noted at Grange Waters on Aug 29th. There were no reports that suggested possible breeding activity. All groups of 10 or more are given below.

- Essex Bedfords Park, 10 on Mar 19th and 13 on Dec 3rd. Dagnam Park, 13 on Jan 2nd. Stubbers OPC, 15 on Feb 29th. Thorndon Park, 50 from Nov 14th-Dec 24th. Warley CP, a group of 20–60 present between Dec 13th–31st. Warley Gap, 11 on Nov 30th. Weald Park, 12 on Feb 5th, 11 on Mar 20th and 32 on Nov 24th.
- Herts Broxbourne Woods, 50 on Nov 24th, 70 on 27th; 30 on Dec 6th and 10 on 14th. Cassiobury Park, 25 on Jan 14th and up to 22 in Mar. Hatfield Park, 10 on Dec 4th and 30 on 8th. Northaw Great Wood, 10 on Nov 20th; 30 on Dec 3rd, 20 on 11th and 53 on 20th. North Mymms Park, 12 on Dec 4th. Scotsbridge Mill, 10 on Mar 30th. Stockers Lake, 10 on Feb 2nd.
- Middx Broadwater Lake, 20 on Dec 18th. Hampstead Heath, 15 on Nov 20th. Trent Park, 16 on Nov 30th.
- Bucks Black Park, 50 on Jan 20th, 20 on Oct 27th and 25 on Dec 13th.

- Kent Sevenoaks WR, up to 30 in Feb, 13 on Mar 28th and 12 on Apr 4th. Sidcup, 15 on Mar 28th.
- Surrey Croydon, 40 on Nov 8th. Headley Heath, 70 on Dec 5th. Horton CP, 10 on Dec 12th. London Wetland Centre, 10 on Mar 8th; 11 on Oct 13th, 16 over on 16th and 33 over on 21st. Wimbledon Common, 10 on Apr 22nd, 50 on Oct 27th, 100 on Nov 24th, 65 on Dec 10th, 35 on Dec 27th.
- In Lond Regent's Park, three seen between Oct 5th and Nov 14th.

1663.1 Mealy Redpoll***Carduelis flammea***

Status: scarce irruptive winter visitor.

- Essex Cornmill Meadows, two on Apr 17th and 22nd (HV, RW). South Woodford, one on Apr 8th (KM). Warley CP, one from Dec 12th-29th (CRJ *et al*). Weald CP, one on Mar 20th (CRJ).
- Herts Amwell GP, one on Feb 28th among a group of Lesser Redpolls (AR), two on 29th (BR) and Mar 20th (ALs). Broxbourne Woods, one on Dec 15th (SC). Cassiobury Park, at least two on various dates from Mar 10th-30th (mo).

1993 Additional record

- Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Nov 1st (DMk, NPS).

1666 Common Crossbill***Loxia curvirostra***

Status: irruptive visitor, rare breeding species (usually following irruptions).

A fairly quiet year for this species, with just 12 records from ten sites. July had the most records as well as the largest group—nine birds at Amwell GP. All records are given below.

- Essex Chingford, 13 on July 18th (EBS). Ilford, two W on July 22nd (EBS). Thorndon CP, two on Nov 26th (EBS).
- Herts Amwell GP, nine on July 11th (BR) and two flew over on July 14th (TA). Broxbourne Woods, two on Dec 11th (SC). Waltham Cross, a male flew N on Sept 2nd (SC).
- Kent Shoreham Village, one on Aug 12th (JR).
- Surrey Epsom, two flew over on Sept 6th (NBd). Limpsfield Chart, one on June 13th -14th, and July 2nd (PJO). London Wetland Centre, four flew W on Feb 20th (DMk). North Downs GC, Woldingham, one flew E on June 20th (BJT). Putney, five flew W over observer's garden on Feb 20th (RK).
- In Lond Regent's Park, one N on Feb 23rd (ARD, DJ).

1710 Bullfinch***Pyrrhula pyrrhula***

Status: fairly common breeding resident.

The largest groups reported were of 10 birds on five occasions. A large number of individual records were submitted for this species, so it is surprising that only 30–32 breeding territories were reported. This compares with 67

territories in 2003. Groups of five or more and significant breeding numbers (pairs/territories in brackets) are listed below.

- Essex Bedfords Park (4), five on Jan 14th. Havering CP (3). Ingrebourne Valley (4), seven on Feb 15th, six on Dec 27th. Noak Hill, five on Jan 1st. Tylers Common (3). Weald Park (3), five on Nov 22nd and 24th, six on Dec 5th.
- Herts Amwell GP, 10 on Feb 21st. Bowyer's GP, seven on Jan 4th. Brookman's Park, five on Jan 17th. Broxbourne Woods, five on Dec 1st and 6th. Chess Valley, five on Nov 27th. Essendon, eight on May 23rd. Hatfield, five on Dec 19th. Jersey Farm, six on May 2nd. North Mymms Park, six on Nov 4th, 10+ on Nov 5th (some of which may have been Northern Bullfinches, see below), up to 10 in Dec. Rickmansworth, up to six in Dec. Rye Meads RSPB (3), six on Apr 11th, five on May 1st, seven on July 31st and Oct 23rd. Tyttenhanger GP, five on Apr 11th and Nov 25th, six on Nov 27th. Welham Green, six on Feb 11th.
- Middx Brent Res, eight on Jan 10th, six on Mar 27th. Horsenden Hill (4), 10 on Feb 28th. Trent Park, eight on Dec 2nd. Wormwood Scrubs (2).
- Bucks Wraysbury GP, a total of 10 was trapped in both July and Aug; eight on Jan 28th and seven on Sept 1st.
- Kent Sevenoaks WR, seven on Jan 5th, Feb 8th and Feb 29th, six on Mar 13th, seven on Nov 21st and 28th, and up to 10 in Dec.
- Surrey Ashtead Common, seven on Jan 21st. Bookham Common (8, in partial census), six on Apr 24th. Holmethorpe SP, seven on Feb 28th. Horton CP (2), eight on Mar 8th, seven on Mar 19th and July 23rd. R. Hogsmill, Riverside OS (2). Wimbledon Common (1), nine on Jan 29th and eight on Dec 27th.

The observers considered the following records to show characters of the race *P. p. pyrrhula* "Northern Bullfinch". 2004 was notable for an influx of this species nationwide, but the numbers reported in the London area were nevertheless astonishing.

- Essex Fairlop Waters, a female on Dec 25th (AAB). Rainham Marshes, one on Oct 27th (HV), two on 28th (HV) and six on Nov 28th (DMn). Thorndon Park, up to 12 from Nov 11th-Dec 24th (CRJ *et al*). Turnford Marsh GP, two on Dec 23rd (JMF). Warley CP, present from Dec 9th-31st with 10 on 20th (TB, CRJ). Weald CP, one on Nov 22nd (CRJ).
- Herts Broxbourne Woods, seven on Nov 20th, one on Nov 24th and 25th (SC). North Mymms Park, 'a substantial number' of a group of 10 on Dec 4th were considered to be Northern Bullfinch (AM). Seventy Acres Lake, four on Dec 30th (AGr).
- Middx Hampstead Heath, five on Nov 20th (WEO).
- Surrey West End Common, Esher, two females in birch scrub on Dec 24th (SJS).

1717 Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
 Status: very scarce breeding resident; occasional passage migrant.

There were 33 records from eight sites. The highest counts came from Bookham Common (with 10 on Feb 2nd) and Broxbourne Woods (with seven on Dec 14th, though there were unconfirmed reports of up to 14 birds). All records are listed.

- Essex Harold Hill, 1–2 from Jan 21st-Mar 12th (KB, CRJ). Ongar Park Wood, a pair on Feb 21st (ELBF). South Woodford, a pair from Jan 1st-Apr 29th. South Weald, 1–2 from Feb 3rd-Mar 14th (CRJ). Weald Park, one on Feb 1st (THn).
- Herts Bencroft Wood, Wormley, one on Mar 16th (ADW). Broxbourne Woods, up to five in Jan, three on Feb 12th, one in Mar and seven in Dec (mo).
- Bucks East Iver Lakes, one on Feb 25th (DR).
- Surrey Bookham Common, three on Jan 12th and two on 13th (APe); 10 on Feb 2nd (APe) and one on 4th (RSu).

1850 Snow Bunting***Plectrophenax nivalis***

Status: scarce autumn and winter visitor.

- Bucks Queen Mother Res, a first-winter male along the southern shore on Nov 8th (CDRH).
- Surrey Walton Res, one male on the causeway until at least mid afternoon on Nov 6th (DMH).

2003 Additional Record

- Surrey London Wetland Centre, three flew south at 08.55 on Nov 14th including a calling male (NPS).

1857 Yellowhammer***Emberiza citrinella***

Status: widespread but declining breeding resident.

Approximately 18 breeding pairs in total. Overall a decline on recent years may reflect less observer coverage. All potential breeding records (with numbers of territories or singing males in brackets), maximum counts at all sites with ten or more birds and any notable observer comments on status are listed.

- Essex Corbets Tey (6). Crystal Waters, 24 on Feb 22nd. Gerpins Lane, 21 on Jan 24th. Grange Waters, 28 on Oct 24th. Hainault (13). Havering CP (5). Holyfield Hall Farm, 40 on Jan 8th. Holyfield Marsh GP, 13 on Feb 10th. Ingrebourne Valley (10), 14 on Feb 15th. Pages Farm, 20 on Feb 21st. Rainham, 21 on Jan 24th.
- Herts Abbots Langley, ten on Jan 3rd. Brickendonbury (1). Brookmans Park, 11 on Oct 21st. Chess Valley (2). Colney Heath (1). Coopers Green GP (1). Jersey Farm (1), ten on Feb 15th. Letchmore Heath, 50 on Dec 12th. North Mymms Park, 20 on Dec 28th. Potters Crouch, ten on both Feb 22nd and Mar 7th. Rye Meads RSPB, 20 on Dec 11th. Tyttenhanger GP, ten on Jan 3rd, 18th and 24th. Woodhill House (1). Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross (1), 12 on Jan 24th.
- Middx Fernyhill Farm, 18 on Mar 1st. Park Farm, Enfield (1). Parkside Farm/Res (1).
- Bucks Robert's Farm, four on Feb 29th.
- Kent Lullingstone Lake/Park (4).
- Surrey Banstead Down (1). Beddlestead Farm, 12 on Mar 1st. Bookham Common (1). Cony Crook, Chelsham, 12 on Apr 2nd. Epsom Common (1). Horton CP (2), 20+ on Dec 12th. Limpsfield Chart (9). Park Farm, Chessington (1).

Princes Coverts, Byhurst Farm (2). Riddlesdown, South Croydon, present May to July but numbers involved unknown. Trevereux area, 50 on Mar 7th.
In Lond Regent's Park, two on Jan 29th (ARD, DJ).

1866 Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*
Status: rare vagrant.

Surrey Beddington SF, a first-winter female on Aug 27th (PA).

A hat-trick for the years 2002–2004, this individual represents the 21st London record (23 birds in total).

1877 Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*
Status: fairly common but declining breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

An approximate total of 122 breeding pairs /singing males, represents another year on year decline. Herts however recorded a minimum of 63 pairs, a considerable increase on 2002–3, though this could represent better observer coverage, whilst Middlesex levels were appreciably lower.

All sites containing three or more breeding pairs or singing males/territories are itemised (shown in brackets). All Inner London records and occurrences of ten or more birds in maximum counts are detailed below.

Essex Dagenham Chase (4). Fairlop Waters (6), 12 on Jan 11th. Holyfield Hall Farm, 20 on Jan 4th and 50 on Dec 19th. Hooks Marsh (5). Ingrebourne Valley (19), 70 on Dec 27th. Rainham Marshes (37), 44 on Jan 25th and 115 on Nov 14th. Turnford Marsh GP (3).

Herts Amwell GP (12), 80 at roost on Jan 17th. Beech Farm GP (7). Broxbourne GP (5). Cheshunt GP (3). Croxley Green (3). Croxley Moor (3). Hilfield Park Res (7–10), a return to 2002 levels. Rye Meads RSPB (15), 70 on Nov 13th. Seventy Acres Lake, 50 at roost on Dec 15th. Tyttenhanger GP (3). Watford Link Road, 13 at roost on Nov 6th.

Middx Bushy Park (5). Staines Moor, at least ten on Sept 25th, mostly flyover migrants. Stanwell Moor (2–3).

Bucks Wraysbury GP, 21 ringed during Sept.

Kent Sevenoaks WR, 15 on Jan 24th. Swanscombe Marsh (5).

Surrey Beddington SF, 15 on Jan 17th. Hersham GP (4). London Wetland Centre (3), 41 on Nov 6th. Richmond Park (3). Trevereux area, 15 on Feb 7th. Walton Res (Chelsea/Lambeth) (4).

In Lond Chelsea Wharf, singing males on Mar 17th and July 5th. Regent's Park, one pair probably bred.

1882 Corn Bunting***Miliaria calandra***

Status: declining and increasingly localised breeding resident.

A hugely disappointing ten records received, with only two double figure flocks. An acceleration in decline even in comparison with a very poor 2003.

- Essex Fairlop Waters, 22 on Jan 1st was the largest flock of the year. Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Jan 2nd. Mollands Lane GP, one on Jan 3rd. Rainham Marshes, one on Nov 3rd.
- Herts Bushy, 17 on Mar 20th, one on Apr 10th. Mymmshall Wood, one on Oct 24th. Potters Crouch, one singing male on Mar 18th represented the only territorial activity, with one nearby on July 18th.
- Kent Dartford Marsh, one on June 20th.

Appendix I: Escapes

The following selection of records relate to birds known, or presumed to be of captive origin and is not an exhaustive list. In addition to those listed, there are fully-winged individuals of several species of wildfowl in collections such as at St James's Park and Bushy Park.

Black Swan*Cygnus atratus*

Small numbers were seen throughout the year at 25 localities. Two pairs bred at Cheshunt GP, rearing at least six cygnets. A pair bred in St James's Park and raised three young.

0154 Whooper Swan*Cygnus cygnus*

Surrey London Wetland Centre, the usual bird was present all year.

Swan Goose*Anser cygnoides*

Essex Walthamstow Res, one throughout year.

0158 Pink-footed Goose*Anser brachyrhynchus*

Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, one from Oct 26th-31st. Rainham Marshes, singles on Dec 8th and 30th-31st.

Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on Oct 17th.

In Lond St James's Park, one irregularly from Nov 12th into 2005.

0159 White-fronted Goose*Anser albifrons*

Essex Hooks Marsh, one from Jan 31st-Feb 1st was a presumed escape.

Middx Hampton Court Park, one from Nov 13th-Dec 15th.

In Lond St James's Park, one throughout the year was paired up with a Bar-headed Goose.

Bar-headed Goose*Anser indicus*

Surrey 1-2 reported from four sites between Feb-July.

0163 Snow Goose*Anser caerulescens*

Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Aug 27th. QE II Res, six on June 7th. R. Thames, Twickenham, one on Feb 25th.

Emperor Goose*Anser canagicus*

Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Feb 10th and 13th.

Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on June 5-6th.

In Lond Buckingham Palace, two present on Jan 1st.

- 0167 Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*
 Essex Most reports came from the Goosefield at Holyfield Hall Farm where up to five were seen throughout the year.
 Herts Coopers Green GP, up to four seen, one appeared to be sitting on a nest. 1–3 birds seen at six other sites
 Middx Osterley Park, three on Dec 13th. Staines Moor, one in Feb with Canadas.
 Bucks Chalfont Park, one on Jan 1st and Mar 27th.
 Kent Sevenoaks WR, 1–3 birds seen, one of which bred with a Greylag Goose.
 Surrey 1–4 reported at three sites on four dates.
 In Lond Hyde Park, one on Mar 26th.

- Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*
 Essex Barking Bay, the usual bird reported in Jan and Mar.
 In Lond Buckingham Palace, 1–2 in Jan.

- 0177 Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa*
 Essex Connaught Water, a pair on Oct 28th and Dec 12th.
 Surrey Wandsworth Common, one on Sept 18th. Wimbledon Common, one on Beverley Brook on Sept 24th and Oct 11th.

- 0179 Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope*
 In Lond Tate Modern, 1–2 seen on various dates, presumably from St James's Park.

- 0189 Pintail** *Anas acuta*
 Middx Bushy Park, 1–2 reported.
 Surrey Up to eight escapes and their progeny were seen throughout the year, mainly at the London Wetland Centre.
 In Lond St James's Park, an offspring of a pinioned pair ringed in 1996 was shot in Russia on May 6th 2002, another recovery was made in France. This just shows how far these birds move!

- Speckled Teal** *Anas flavirostris*
 Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Jan 6th.

- Puna Teal** *Anas puna*
 Essex Connaught Water, two from Jan 25th-Mar 21st and one on Apr 6th.

- Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhyncha*
 Essex Connaught Water, one on May 16th.

- Ringed Teal** *Callonetta leucophrys*
 Kent Sevenoaks WR, one on Oct 27th.

- Cinnamon Teal** *Anas cyanoptera*
Essex Valentines Park, one on Oct 13th.
- 0196 Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*
Essex Connaught Water, a pair throughout the year.
Middx Bushy Park, up to nine during the year.
In Lond Buckingham Palace, one on Jan 7th. Regent's Park/St James's Park, up to 20.
- Rosybill** *Netta peposaca*
Middx Bushy Park, two on Feb 9th.
- 0202 Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*
Middx Bushy Park, one on June 12th.
- New Zealand Scaup** *Aythya novaeseelandiae*
Essex Connaught Water, the long staying bird until May 16th.
- 0206 Eider** *Somateria mollissima*
In Lond St James's Park, a captive pair bred, two young reared and left fully-winged.
- White-headed Duck** *Oxyura leucocephala*
Middx Broadwater Lake, the returning drake again from Jan to Mar 7th and from Nov 6th to Dec.
- 0088 White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
In Lond St James's Park, the free-flying bird was present all year.
- Harris's Hawk** *Parabuteo unicinctus*
Essex Dagenham, one with jesses on Aug 6th. Ingrebourne Valley, one on Dec 27th.
- 0320 Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*
Surrey A bird with jesses seen at Woldingham on Sept 17th and North Downs GC on Oct 20th.
- Chukar** *Alectoris chukar*
Middx Vicarage Farm, Enfield, one or a hybrid on June 7th.
- Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*
Singles reported from seven localities across London.

- African Grey Parrot** *Psittacus erithacus*
Surrey Beddington SF, one on Sept 5th.
- Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus*
Three seen in the Surrey sector and one in Essex.
- Alexandrine Parakeet** *Psittacula erithacus*
Essex South Park, Ilford, one on three dates from Mar 12th-Apr 14th.
Middx Canons Park, one on Oct 31st.
Surrey London Wetland Centre, 1-2 on various dates throughout the year.
- Blue-crowned Parakeet** *Aratinga acuticaudata*
Kent Beckenham, one on May 11th.
- Monk Parakeet** *Myiopsitta monachus*
Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on June 8th.
Although no records were received, this species was known to be present throughout in Borehamwood. All records are requested to enable us to monitor this increasing species.
- Mitred Parakeet** *Aratinga mitrata*
Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, one on three dates in September.
- Princess Parrot** *Polytelis alexandrae*
Surrey QE II Res, one on Sept 5th.
- Papuan Lory** *Chamosyna papou*
Surrey QE II Res, one on May 11th and presumed same at Walton-upon-Thames on July 16th.
- Orange-winged Amazon Parrot** *Amazona amazonica*
Surrey New Malden, one from Feb 24th-27th.
- Zebra Waxbill** *Amandava subflava*
Surrey London Wetland Centre, one on Feb 29th.
- Canary** *Serinus canaria*
Surrey Shirley, one on May 30th.

Indian Silverbill*Lonchura malabarica*

Surrey Surbiton, one in April and May.

Yellow-crowned Bishop*Euplectes afer*

Surrey Beddington SF, one on Sept 4th.

Appendix II: Hybrids

The following records relate to wild or feral hybrids.

Canada Goose x Greylag Goose

Essex Holyfield Hall Farm, one on Oct 26th. Rainham Marshes, two on Feb 11th.
 Herts Amwell GP, one present all year.
 Kent Dartford Marsh, one on Dec 25th.
 Surrey Beddington SF, one in Mar and Apr. London Wetland Centre, 1–5 throughout year.
 In Lond Battersea Bridge, 1–2 on Jan 1st and during June-July.

Canada Goose x Lesser White-fronted Goose

Herts Amwell GP, one present all year.

Barnacle Goose x Greylag Goose

Kent Sevenoaks WR, five juveniles raised.

Shoveler x Blue-winged Teal

Herts Amwell GP, one from Jan-Feb 4th and again from Aug 7th-Dec 25th.

Mallard x Gadwall

Herts Amwell GP, one present all year.
 Bucks Wraysbury GP, the returning drake in Nov and Dec.

***Aythya* hybrids**

Essex Rainham Marshes, a female on Nov 5th.
 Herts Amwell GP, a female on Mar 19th and a male on June 9th.
 Middx Staines Res, a drake Scaup x Tufted Duck during May and June. A presumed female Pochard x Scaup or Tufted Duck from Dec 18th into 2005.
 Bucks Colnbrook, a probable female Pochard x Ferruginous Duck on Dec 9th.
 Wraysbury GP, a drake Pochard x Tufted Duck (Lesser Scaup type) between Jan 27th-Mar 27th and again from Nov-Dec was the returning bird from 2003.

Surrey London Wetland Centre, a Ring-necked Duck x Tufted Duck on Jan 19th. A pair, probably Pochard x Tufted Duck on Dec 24th. Thorpe Water Park, a presumed Scaup x Pochard on Feb 15th.

Red-crested Pochard x Pochard

Herts Aldenham Res, the regular drake from Jan-Apr.

Hooded Merganser x Goldeneye

Middx Bedfont Lakes CP, the usual drake seen in Feb.

First and Last Dates of Regular Migrants – 2004

| Summer Migrants | Arrival | | Departure | |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Garganey | Mar 7 | Connaught Water | Oct 5 | Staines Res |
| Osprey | Apr 4 | QE II Res | Oct 17 | Staines Res |
| Hobby | Apr 1 | Tythenhanger GP | Oct 9 | Bookham Common |
| Little Ringed Plover | Mar 6 | Dagenham Chase | Oct 4 | Staines Res |
| Whimbrel | Apr 14 | Sevenoaks WR/Sewardstone | Sept 15 | Beddington SF |
| Black Tern | Apr 15 | Staines Res | Oct 17 | Island Barn Res |
| Sandwich Tern | Apr 2 | three sites | Oct 11 | Horton Fields |
| Common Tern | Apr 2 | Queen Mother/Island Barn Res | Oct 24 | Walthamstow Res |
| Arctic Tern | Apr 21 | Walton Res | Oct 16 | Beddington SF |
| Turtle Dove | Apr 24 | Rye Meads RSPB | Sept 25 | Beddington SF |
| Cuckoo | Apr 11 | Rye Meads/Tythenhanger GP | Sept 25 | Cheshunt GP |
| Swift | Apr 6 | Danson Park | Oct 24 | Sevenoaks WR |
| Sand Martin | Mar 15 | Troy Mill GP | Oct 14 | London Wetland Centre |
| Swallow | Mar 20 | Dagenham Chase | Nov 4 | Paddington Green |
| House Martin | Feb 9 | Dagenham Chase | Oct 24 | Seventy Acres Lake |
| Tree Pipit | Apr 12 | Dagenham Chase | Oct 9 | Beech Farm GP |
| Yellow Wagtail | Mar 23 | Queen Mother Res | Nov 23 | Danson Park |
| Nightingale | Apr 4 | Sewardstone Marsh | July 5 | Sewardstone Marsh |
| Common Redstart | Apr 14 | Sewardstone Marsh | Sept 19 | Hayes |
| Whinchat | Apr 18 | Fairlop Waters | Oct 8 | Lake Farm |
| Wheatear | Mar 15 | Walthamstow Marshes | Oct 30 | Dartford Marsh |
| Ring Ouzel | Apr 9 | Chelsham | Oct 17 | Beddington SF |
| Grasshopper Warbler | Apr 16 | South Norwood CP | Sept 22 | Wraysbury GP |
| Sedge Warbler | Apr 2 | London Wetland Centre | Nov 20 | Rye Meads RSPB |
| Reed Warbler | Apr 16 | Arthur Jacob NR | Oct 24 | Rye Meads RSPB |
| Garden Warbler | Apr 17 | Beddington/Maple Lodge NR | Oct 10 | Rye Meads RSPB |
| Lesser Whitethroat | Apr 18 | Island Barn Res | Oct 16 | London Wetland Centre |
| Common Whitethroat | Apr 11 | Hounslow Heath | Sept 30 | Rye Meads RSPB |
| Wood Warbler | June 6 | Walton Heath | | not recorded |
| Willow Warbler | Mar 24 | Hogsmill SF | Oct 17 | Walthamstow Res |
| Spotted Flycatcher | Apr 24 | Bushey | Sept 29 | Chalfont Park |
| Pied Flycatcher | Apr 13 | Hermon Hill, Wanstead | Oct 19 | London Wetland Centre |
| Winter Migrants | Departure | | Arrival | |
| Smew | Mar 22 | Broadwater Lake | Nov 14 | Ruislip Lido |
| Goosander | Apr 11 | Wm Girling Res | Oct 13 | Wm Girling Res |
| Bittern | Mar 18 | 70 Acres Lake/Wetland Centre | Oct 11 | Seventy Acres Lake |
| Jack Snipe | Apr 24 | Hogsmill SF/Wetland Centre | Oct 5 | London Wetland Centre Rock |
| Pipit | Apr 3 | London Wetland Centre | Sept 23 | Waltham Cross |
| Water Pipit | Apr 30 | London Wetland Centre | Sept 26 | Tythenhanger GP |
| Fieldfare | May 23* | London Wetland Centre | Oct 6 | Ingrebourne Valley |
| Redwing | Apr 24* | Radlett | Sept 25 | Leyton |
| Brambling | Apr 28 | Cheshunt GP | Oct 3 | Amwell GP |
| Siskin | May 25* | Welham Green | July 27 | Croxley Green |

*Summer bird reported

Ringling Report for 2004

Roger Taylor

The weather during 2004 was, in general, conducive to successful ringing operations, with above average temperatures and, in the main, lower than average rainfall, although parts of April, August and October defied this trend. The reported ringing total for the LNHS Area was 20,538—a 14% increase on the previous year. This total was made up of 18,468 full-grown birds (up 16% on 2003) and 2,070 nestlings (down 2%).

Table 1. The most ringed species, in descending order

| Species | Full grown | Pullus | Total |
|--------------------|------------|--------|-------|
| Blue Tit | 2217 | 515 | 2732 |
| Common Chiffchaff | 1858 | 11 | 1869 |
| Blackcap | 1833 | 8 | 1841 |
| Great Tit | 1122 | 504 | 1626 |
| Greenfinch | 1159 | 16 | 1175 |
| Reed Warbler | 960 | 84 | 1044 |
| Common Whitethroat | 1013 | 15 | 1028 |
| Sedge Warbler | 737 | 57 | 794 |
| Robin | 702 | 6 | 708 |
| Long-tailed Tit | 687 | 0 | 687 |

As usual, Blue Tit topped the list of the most-ringed species, but the nestling-to-adult ratio for this species changed from 0.34 in 2003 to 0.23 this year—a result of an increase in adults ringed and a small reduction in the number of pulli. In second place (for the second year running) is Common Chiffchaff, maintaining the substantial increase in the number of adult birds ringed last year. All the full-grown species listed in Table 1 were reported in increased numbers; Greenfinch, Common Whitethroat and Sedge Warbler showed substantial increases. Full-grown Sedge Warbler numbers ringed by Rye Meads RG were up from 259 in 2003 to 576 this year; the group also reported a record year for Reed Warbler and Common Whitethroat. Dartford RG reported an increase in Common Whitethroat adult survival, with a 79% increase in the number of breeding birds recorded during their Constant Effort Sites ringing sessions.

Full-grown waterfowl were ringed in smaller numbers this year; a substantial reduction in Greylag and Canada Geese was due to a poor round-up catch at Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve. Only three adult Water Rail were ringed, and numbers of Moorhen were down by 6%; however, Coot numbers were up by 47%, with Rye Meads RG and Steve Christmas reporting good catches. Sparrowhawk is the only raptor species caught in any numbers in the LNHS Area and this year's adult total of 15 is on par with the average for the last six years. Only three adult Kestrels were ringed but this is the best total since 2000. Waders were only caught in small numbers, with the exception of Dunlin: 114 were ringed close to the Thames at Crossness. Rye Meads RG caught eight Green Sandpiper—their highest ever annual total. The only gull species recorded this year was Black-headed Gull and the majority of these were caught by hand in the Royal Parks by Roy Sanderson.

The Woodpigeon continues to increase in urban and suburban habitats; this is reflected in the numbers being ringed within the LNHS Area, and this year's total of 51 adults is well above the six-year average. Collared Dove numbers have fallen back from the high of a few years ago, and sadly no Turtle Doves were ringed in 2004. Numbers of Great Spotted Woodpecker were the same as in 2003, but Green Woodpecker catches were up by 33%. The number of adult hirundines ringed fluctuates from year to year, and only one adult Swallow was ringed in 2004; however, Rye Meads RG reported 43 Sand Martin and 166 House Martin in their annual ringing totals, both being well above the average. Runnymede RG reported the ringing of 80 Meadow Pipit—the highest LNHS total for many years.

In addition to the warbler species reported above, there was a general increase in the number of *Sylvia* warblers ringed: Garden Warbler were up 64% and Blackcap up 38%. With the exception of 2001, when ringing totals were reduced as a result of Foot-and-Mouth restrictions, the numbers of the Blackcap have increased every year since 1998. Common Chiffchaff remained unchanged from 2003, with good numbers reported by Runnymede RG, Rye Meads RG and Barry Trevis; however, Willow Warbler numbers were down, following an unusual increase last year, with only 249 full-grown birds ringed this year. An autumn influx boosted numbers of Goldcrest, and the total ringed was up by 53%.

Of the common finch species, Chaffinch and Bullfinch were slightly down in numbers and Linnet fell back from the high of last year. Numbers of full-grown House Sparrow and Tree Sparrow were slightly down on the previous year but remained close to the average. Both Greenfinch and Goldfinch were ringed in greater numbers, with most winter feeding sites reporting good catches. It is pleasing to be able to report an increase in Reed Bunting numbers: up 95% to 388, which is 36% above the six-year average; Runnymede RG, Rye Meads RG and Barry Travis were responsible for the bulk of these records.

The number of nestlings ringed in 2004 was slightly down on the previous year, but within this modest fall were some surprising fluctuations. Only 19 Grey Heron pulli were ringed this year as opposed to 32 in 2003; and the total of both Gadwall and Tufted Duck ringed by Rye Meads RG was down on 2003, but this group did report an increase in Mallard chicks ringed. Generally speaking, the number of nest-box projects within the LNHS Area remains unchanged but the composition of the two principal occupants of the boxes changes to some degree each year. In 2004, the number of Blue Tit pulli ringed fell by 2% but Great Tit numbers were up by an astonishing 57%. The data for the last six years shows that Great Tit pulli numbers were, on average, only 65% of those recorded for Blue Tit but this year the numbers are almost equal. A total of 100 Common Tern chicks were ringed, with 28 at Runnymede and 72 at Rye Meads. Tree Sparrow pulli fell back from the record numbers ringed in 2003, with 379 ringed this year at Beddington Sewage Farm and 60 at Chorleywood. A record number of Grey Wagtail pulli were recorded, the majority being ringed at Lemsford Springs Nature Reserve. Swallow, Reed Warbler and Blackbird also showed notable increases.

Unusual species ringed this year included an adult Garganey at Rye Meads, which is believed to be the first for the LNHS Area. Other notable records were: Common Sandpiper (1); Cuckoo (1); Nightingale (2); Common Redstart (1); Ring Ouzel (1); Cetti's Warbler (1); Grasshopper Warbler (3); Marsh Warbler (1); Firecrest (7); Pied Flycatcher (1); and Brambling (3).

There have been a number of interesting recoveries reported during the year; a selection of these is listed below. (*Sites within the London Area are attributed to their Watsonian vice-county, as used in the rest of the London Bird Report, with the present administrative area in parentheses. This is to prevent confusion since many counties, where the original ringing, recovery or control may have taken place, use current administrative boundaries.*)

The first detail line shows the date and site of original ringing; the second line the subsequent recovery or recapture; the third line the distance (1km = 0.625 miles) and number of days since original ringing; and finally any observations or comments.

Key to symbols used:

| | |
|-----|--|
| 1w | First-winter |
| 1y | First-year |
| ad | Adult |
| F | Female |
| juv | Juvenile |
| M | Male |
| pul | Pullus (Nestling or Chick) |
| R | Caught and released by a ringer |
| VV | Ring or colour marks read in the field |
| X | Found dead |
| + | Shot or killed by man |

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

| | | | |
|-------|-----|----------|---|
| X3401 | adM | 29/05/00 | Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire |
| | VV | 19/03/04 | Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire 110km.; 1,390 days |

Movements of this species over more than 100km are unusual, making this record worthy of mention.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| 5192616 | juv | 02/07/97 | Gouthwaite, South Yorkshire |
| | VV | 21/07/04 | Kensal Town, Middlesex (Greater London) 368km.; 2,576 days |

An unusual record as, with the exception of the Beauley Firth moulting flock, most movements of this species are between 4 and 29km.

Pintail *Anus acuta*

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----------|--|
| FC88913 | juv | 18/08/96 | St. James's Park, Middlesex (Greater London) |
| | + | 06/05/02 | Komi Assr, Usinskiy, Russia 3,645km.; 2,087 days |

This bird was ringed as a duckling of pinioned parents and confirms that birds retain the urge to migrate despite being captive-bred.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| FC77222 | 1wM | 11/12/95 | Hyde Park, Middlesex (Greater London) |
| | + | 08/07/04 | Yamal-Nenets, Russia 4,130km.; 3,041 days |

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| FC88942 | ad | 12/01/97 | Kensington Gardens, Middlesex (Greater London) |
| | + | 08/07/04 | Yamal-Nenets, Russia 4,130km.; 2,643 days |
| FP56906 | juv | 17/08/02 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire |
| | + | 08/07/04 | Yamal-Nenets, Russia 4,130km.; 600 days |

All these birds were shot at a location east of the Ural mountains, a few miles south of the Arctic Circle. The recovery date shown is the 'reported date' but unfortunately there is little doubt that these birds were killed during the breeding season.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| 9006792 | pul | 06/06/03 | Kroon's Polders, The Netherlands |
| | VV | 23/08/03 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire 347km.; 78 days |

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

| | | | |
|---------|----|----------|--|
| KT09299 | ad | 13/08/92 | Jurmo, Finland |
| | R | 18/01/04 | Crossness, Kent (Greater London) 1,628km.; 4,175 days |

Typical of Dunlin wintering on the Thames, this bird of the sub-species *alpina* was ringed at a stop-over on an island off the south-west coast of Finland, presumably having bred further inland.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

As in previous years there is a large number of records for this species, many of which are sight records made by Alan Gibson in the Royal Parks. These comprise birds ringed in the London area, mostly as adults in winter; and birds ringed abroad, usually as pulli in countries bordering the North Sea and Baltic Sea. These sight records include birds originating from Denmark (1), Estonia (1), Sweden (9), Norway (4), Lithuania (4), Finland (6) and Poland (2). Alan also reported nine sight records of UK-ringed birds that were ringed more than 20 years ago.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----------|--|
| SV68583 | pul | 11/06/03 | Rye Meads, Hertfordshire |
| | R | 24/06/03 | Huelva, Spain 1,701km.; 105 days |
| SV68660 | pul | 28/06/03 | Rye Neads, Hertfordshire |
| | X | 07/04/04 | Port Loko, Sierra Leone 4,945km.; 284 days |

Two birds from the same breeding colony recovered in different circumstances. The first was caught and released by Spanish ringers on its southbound migration and the second most probably intentionally taken in West Africa on the return journey.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----------|--|
| CL14621 | juv | 26/08/02 | Queen Mary Reservoir, Middlesex (Surrey) |
| | X | 09/07/04 | Brimpton, Berkshire 51km.; 318 days |

At 51km, this is an unusually large movement for this species.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

| | | | |
|---------|----|----------|---------------------------------------|
| R290189 | ad | 22/08/04 | Twinyess, North Ronaldsay, Orkney |
| | R | 25/09/04 | Wraysbury GP, Bucks (Buckinghamshire) |

886km.; 34 days

There is no indication as to whether this was an Orkney breeding bird or a migrant.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----------|---|
| L222512 | 1yM | 20/10/03 | Vlieland Barakkenkamo, The Netherlands |
| | R | 24/12/03 | Hurst Green, Surrey |

405km.; 65 days

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

| | | | |
|---------|----|----------|---------------------------------------|
| RW94559 | 1y | 28/09/02 | Wraysbury GP, Bucks (Buckinghamshire) |
| | R | 26/04/04 | Achim, Luneberg, Germany |

675km.; 576 days

This appears to be a continental bird returning to breed just east of Bremen, although the ringing date is quite early for a migrant to be in the UK.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----------|----------------------------------|
| K211401 | juv | 18/08/96 | Icklesham, Sussex |
| | R | 25/04/04 | Crossness, Kent (Greater London) |

76km.; 2,807 days

Although far from the national longevity record for the species of nearly 13 years, this is a good age for a small passerine.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----------|------------------------------|
| R114085 | adF | 24/01/03 | Ely, Cambridgeshire |
| | R | 06/11/04 | Croxley Green, Hertfordshire |

98km.; 652 days

An interesting record of an over-wintering bird apparently changing location.

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----------|---------------------------------------|
| R832220 | 1yF | 05/09/03 | Wraysbury GP, Bucks (Buckinghamshire) |
| | R | 28/04/04 | Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium |

329km.; 236 days

| | | | |
|---------|-----|----------|--|
| R944477 | juv | 03/07/04 | Queen Mary Reservoir, Middlesex (Surrey) |
| | R | 28/08/04 | Beachy Head, East Sussex |

92km.; 56 days

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

| | | | |
|---------|-------|----------|------------------------------|
| R460454 | ad | 06/03/04 | London Colney, Hertfordshire |
| | R (F) | 08/07/04 | Boston, Lincolnshire |

144km.; 124 days

Whilst most members of this species can be considered to be sedentary, a proportion of the breeding population shows a general southerly dispersal during the autumn and winter. This bird would appear to have returned to its breeding site.

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Duncock | 625 | 6 | 631 |
| Robin | 702 | 6 | 708 |
| Nightingale | 2 | 2 | |
| Common Redstart | 1 | 1 | |
| European Stonechat | 4 | 4 | |
| Ring Ouzel | 1 | 1 | |
| Blackbird | 650 | 25 | 675 |
| Fieldfare | 2 | 2 | |
| Song Thrush | 263 | 7 | 270 |
| Redwing | 91 | 91 | |
| Mistle Thrush | 1 | 1 | |
| Cetti's Warbler | 1 | 1 | |
| Grasshopper Warbler | 3 | 3 | |
| Sedge Warbler | 737 | 57 | 794 |
| Marsh Warbler | 1 | 1 | |
| Reed Warbler | 960 | 84 | 1,044 |
| Melodious Warbler | | | |
| Blackcap | 1,833 | 8 | 1,841 |
| Garden Warbler | 293 | 4 | 297 |
| Lesser Whitethroat | 140 | 4 | 144 |
| Common Whitethroat | 1,013 | 15 | 1,028 |
| Common Chiffchaff | 1,858 | 11 | 1,869 |
| Willow Warbler | 249 | 6 | 255 |
| Goldcrest | 464 | 464 | |
| Firecrest | 7 | 7 | |
| Pied Flycatcher | 1 | 1 | |
| Long-tailed Tit | 687 | 687 | |
| Blue Tit | 2,217 | 515 | 2,732 |
| Great Tit | 1,122 | 504 | 1,626 |
| Coal Tit | 35 | 16 | 51 |
| Marsh Tit | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| Nuthatch | 14 | 12 | 26 |
| Treecreeper | 55 | 55 | |
| Jay | 68 | 68 | |
| Magpie | 20 | 10 | 30 |
| Jackdaw | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Carrion Crow | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Starling | 61 | 61 | |
| House Sparrow | 158 | 158 | |
| Tree Sparrow | 22 | 439 | 461 |
| Chaffinch | 385 | 5 | 390 |
| Brambling | 3 | 3 | |
| Greenfinch | 1,159 | 16 | 1,175 |
| Goldfinch | 290 | 290 | |
| Siskin | 37 | 37 | |
| Linnet | 31 | 5 | 36 |
| Lesser Redpoll | 9 | 9 | |
| Bullfinch | 162 | 162 | |
| Yellowhammer | 43 | 43 | |
| Reed Bunting | 356 | 32 | 388 |
| Totals | 18,468 | 2,070 | 20,538 |

List of contributors

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The Breeding Bird Survey in London, 2004

Ian Woodward

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) was introduced in 1994 to provide a measure of the population changes of our common and widespread birds. One-kilometre squares are chosen at random by BBS organisers at the BTO. Each square is allocated to a volunteer, who makes two early morning transect walks between April and June, separated by at least four weeks. The survey is repeated each year following the same route. By comparing counts of birds made on the same squares in successive years, it is possible to measure population changes.

Where species are sufficiently widespread, changes in population can be measured at regional level as well as national level. This report covers the BTO's London region, which therefore excludes some BBS squares from the outer sectors of the LNHS area that fall within other BTO regions.

In 2004, a total of 86 squares were surveyed in the London region. This represents a noteworthy increase when compared with the number of squares covered in previous years. The table below shows the number of squares covered in each year so far:

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
| 34 | 36 | 41 | 42 | 54 | 57 | 56 | 53 | 54 | 57 | 86 |

In 2004, four species were seen for the first time on BBS walks in the London region – Egyptian Goose, Shoveler, Oystercatcher and Peafowl. This brings the total seen on London squares to 120 species. Other unusual species for BBS in London seen in 2004 included Wigeon, Yellow Wagtail, Willow Tit and Redwing.

Table 1. Population changes in numbers of birds in the BTO's London region compared with the United Kingdom (lcl=lower confidence limit, ucl=upper confidence limit; figures in bold type are statistically significant).

| | Sample size 1994/04 London | % Change 2003/04 London | % Change 2003/04 UK | % Change 1994/04 London | % Change 1994/04 London lcl | % Change 1994/04 London ucl | % Change 1994/04 UK |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Feral Pigeon | 49 | -14 | -5 | -19 | -34 | 0 | 7 |
| Woodpigeon | 54 | 32 | -2 | 113 | 73 | 162 | 12 |
| Collared Dove | 35 | 16 | 8 | 80 | 39 | 132 | 41 |
| Swift | 42 | -19 | 8 | 0 | -34 | 52 | -22 |
| Wren | 48 | 5 | -3 | 56 | 31 | 87 | 14 |
| Dunnoek | 40 | -7 | -8 | 26 | -3 | 65 | 13 |
| Robin | 50 | 16 | -3 | 85 | 53 | 124 | 15 |
| Blackbird | 54 | 6 | -3 | -11 | -22 | 1 | 17 |
| Song Thrush | 35 | 15 | -5 | -10 | -35 | 24 | 14 |
| Blue Tit | 53 | 10 | -2 | 62 | 33 | 96 | 17 |
| Great Tit | 47 | 7 | 5 | 139 | 85 | 209 | 35 |
| Magpie | 52 | 4 | -3 | 40 | 16 | 69 | -1 |
| Carrion Crow | 54 | 10 | 1 | 83 | 43 | 134 | 11 |
| Starling | 54 | -20 | -5 | -34 | -46 | -20 | -30 |
| House Sparrow | 51 | 14 | -1 | -60 | -67 | -53 | -3 |

Table 1 shows the population changes in London between 2003/2004 and 1994/2004, compared with the change found nationally over these periods. The criterion for inclusion in the table is that a species occurs in an average of 30 squares per year over the survey period 1994 to 2004, which is considered to be the minimum number to provide reliable trends. As a result of the low number of squares covered in the early years of the survey, we can only report on 16 species. It is hoped that in future years we will be able to report on additional species, provided the level of coverage remains at its 2004 level or increases still further.

Nine species show a statistically significant increase in London between 1994 and 2004 (Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Wren, Robin, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Magpie, Carrion Crow and Greenfinch). The table shows that many of these also increased significantly in the UK. Two species show a significant decrease in London over the same period. Of these, Starling also decreased in the UK between 1994 and 2004, whereas House Sparrow showed no significant change.

Population changes between 2003 and 2004 showed increases for 12 of the 16 species measured in London, compared with slight decreases for the majority of them in the UK as a whole. However, it should be stressed that none of the year on year population changes were large enough to be considered statistically significant.

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LNHS House Sparrow monitoring: 1995–2003

Helen Baker

Introduction

From March 1995 to October 2003, I organised a monitoring survey of House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* in the London Area (i.e. the region within a 20-mile (approximately 32-kilometre) radius of St. Paul's Cathedral). An Interim Report gave a detailed analysis of the data from 27 gardens which had been monitored for at least four years up to the end of February 2001 (Baker 2005). At that stage I had hoped it would be possible to produce one paper giving a full report on the whole survey, including an analysis of the data on predators and possible competitors and habitat. Unfortunately, because of the large amount of data collected and my other commitments, that has proved to be over-ambitious. This report will deal solely with House Sparrow numbers, and a later paper will look at the other aspects.

Method

The method was described in Baker (Baker 2005).

Analysis and results

Since 1995, records have been received from a total of 61 gardens (see Figure 1). For 12 gardens there are records for the eight 12-month periods, from March 1995 to February 2003, with no more than two months' counts being missed in any one period; these have been used to determine the **Overall trend** in sparrow numbers. For a further 26 gardens (i.e. 38 in total) there are records for at least two consecutive years, with no more than two months missing from any one year, and the **Trend in individual gardens** of House Sparrow numbers has been calculated. Information from the remaining 23 gardens covers a shorter period or is more erratic, but these gardens have been included in the tables in the section discussing House Sparrow numbers in different parts of the London Area.

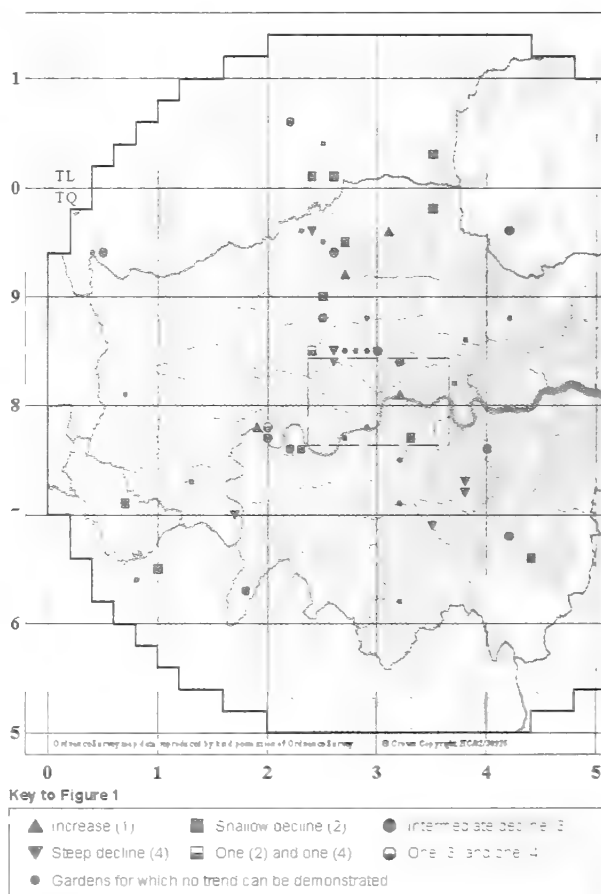


Figure 1. Distribution of gardens covered by the survey and trends in 38 gardens

Overall trend

For each of the 12 gardens for which there is eight years' data, the **monthly maxima** for each 12-month period were added together and divided by 12 to give the **average maximum monthly count** for the garden in that 'year' (Table 1). The total of the Average Maximum Monthly Counts for the 12 gardens in each year was used to determine the **overall trend** in numbers from the beginning to the end of the survey. The data are shown in Figure 2. The graph suggests an average decrease of approximately 75 percent, with a Regression Coefficient of -10.2 (a positive figure indicates an upward trend, and a negative figure a downward trend, in numbers).

Table 1. Average maximum monthly count for 12 gardens:

| Garden | March 1995 to February 2003 | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | 13 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 8 | 39 | 29 | 22 | 18 | 8 | 15 | 14 | 9 |
| 10 | 6 | 11 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 5 |
| 12 | 20 | 17 | 15 | 19 | 13 | 13 | 9 | 6 |
| 13 | 16 | 11 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 13 | 14 | 11 |
| 20 | 20 | 17 | 19 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 22 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23 | 13 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | 18 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 17 | 13 | 9 | 6 |
| 31 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| <i>Total count</i> | <i>157</i> | <i>130</i> | <i>111</i> | <i>95</i> | <i>66</i> | <i>67</i> | <i>60</i> | <i>40</i> |

Trend in individual gardens

The procedures described in the Interim Report were followed to calculate the annual index values and the Regression Coefficient, and hence the overall trend for each of the 38 gardens for which there was sufficient data. It should be noted that the criteria used here are slightly less stringent than those used in the Interim Report, in that two months with no counts were allowed in any 12-month period. This current analysis shows that there had been an increase (Garden Index Regression Coefficient (GIRC) positive) in four gardens, there was a shallow decline (GIRC 0 to -10) in 11 gardens, an intermediate decline (GIRC -

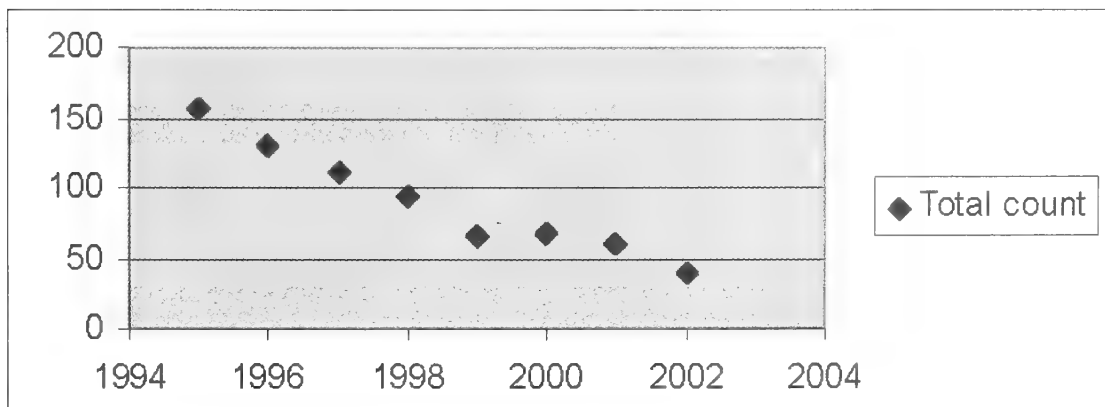


Figure 2. Graph of total House Sparrows counts in each year from Table 1

10.1 to -20) in 14 gardens and a steep decline (GIRC below -20) in nine gardens. The trend for each of these 38 gardens is shown in Figure 1.

It should be noted that in Garden 5 (not covered in the Interim Report) where the analysis shows a positive trend, House Sparrows were rarely seen. One was recorded during two weeks in June 1998 (the first full year that the garden was in the survey) and one was seen in April 1999. In August 2000, two visited a nut feeder several times on one day and three were seen in the following week. No more House Sparrows were recorded until January 2001, when a flock of five appeared. A pair was seen in June 2001 and one or two were present until the following December. Thereafter no House Sparrows were seen until February 2003, when one visited the garden. Gardens 13 and 32 were the two gardens where a positive trend was recorded in the Interim Report. Garden 38 was another new garden, where counts started in 2000, but the positive trend here was based on just two full years' counts.

The Interim Report included histograms of the maximum monthly counts for each garden, grouping the gardens according to the 10-km squares in which they were situated. The histograms illustrated how, in most gardens, the maximum count varied considerably from month to month. Further histograms are not included in this report, but an overview of the data from each garden is included in the following tables. Gardens are grouped using approximately the same 10-km square groupings as in the Interim Report.

Central London (TQ27, TQ28, TQ38 and part of TQ17 (Garden 5)

Central London was well covered, with records from 23 gardens being submitted at some stage during the survey. House Sparrows had stopped visiting several Central London gardens before monitoring started, but others were still attracting flocks of ten or more. At the end of the survey in 2002 and 2003, 12 of the 18 gardens surveyed during this period were not visited by sparrows or were visited only very occasionally. Five gardens regularly attracted a few birds (usually fewer than ten) and one was still visited by a flock of about 20. This last garden, Number 33, was exceptional in that some 20 House Sparrows were regularly recorded from 1997 to the end of the survey in October 2003. This is particularly interesting, because it was in an adjacent road to Garden 34 where five was the highest count and by 2002/2003 just the occasional one or two sparrows were recorded.

| Garden | Period | Comments |
|---------------|---------------|---|
| 54 | 1995–1997 | In 1995 this garden had the highest counts for Central London, with monthly maxima ranging from 21 to 61, and in July 1996, 63 were recorded. |
| 53 | 1995–1997 | Maximum monthly counts in 1995 ranged from 10 to 20. From November 1996 to October 1997, maximum monthly counts ranged from 3 to 16. |
| 2 | 1995–2003 | Monthly maxima of 0 to 10 in 1995 and the first half of 1996. From July 1998 very occasional visits from 1 to 3 birds. |
| 7 | 1995–2003 | Average monthly maxima fell from 13 in 1995 (when highest count was 28) to 1 in 2001 and 2002, by which time sparrows were rarely recorded. |
| 16 | 1995–2003 | A steady decline. Monthly maxima ranged from 6 to 18 in 1995 and 1996 but 0 to 5 in 2002 and 2003. |
| 17 | 1996–2003 | Maximum monthly counts ranged from 0 to 7 in 1996 and 1997, but from September 2000 sparrows were rarely recorded. |

| | | |
|----|-----------|---|
| 18 | 1996–2003 | During the 1995/6 winter up to 25 sparrows were recorded (a number not considered unusual at the time). Thereafter numbers fell. The highest count in 1997 was 12, and by summer 1999 sparrows had become very infrequent visitors. |
| 27 | 1995–2003 | 1 or 2 sparrows seen occasionally up to July 1996 and none thereafter. |
| 29 | 1995–2003 | Up to 3 sparrows seen in most months up to July 2000 (maximum 12 in August 1997). From then on very rarely seen. |
| 30 | 1996–2003 | Up to 13 in winter 1996/97. Thereafter up to 5 recorded occasionally but periods of 4 to 6 months when none seen. A flock of 28 appeared in August 2003 but did not stay. |
| 59 | 1996 | 1 to 3 sparrows recorded. |
| 5 | 1996–2003 | Rarely seen. Occasional visits by 1 to 3 birds (once 5) as described in the comments on trends, above. |
| 33 | 1996–2003 | A flock of some 20 recorded throughout period. |
| 52 | 1997 | Monthly maxima of 6 to 17. |
| 24 | 1996–2003 | 1 House Sparrow seen very occasionally (and 5 on one occasion) up to February 2000 and none thereafter. |
| 44 | 1998 | Counts of 10 and 6. |
| 34 | 1996–2003 | 1 or 2 recorded in most months up to March 2002, with maximum of 5. Very rarely recorded thereafter. |
| 36 | 2000–2002 | Maximum monthly counts 2 to 8. |
| 38 | 2000–2003 | Stable with monthly maxima ranging from 4 to 14. |
| 39 | 2001–2002 | Monthly maxima from 0 to 12. |
| 40 | 2001–2002 | Monthly maxima from 1 to 6. |
| 42 | 2001–2002 | Monthly maxima from 7 to 12. |
| 43 | 2002 | This garden had already lost its House Sparrows and none was recorded in 2002. |

North London/Hertfordshire (TQ29, TQ39, TL20 and TL30)

This area was also well represented, with a total of 17 gardens. At the start of the survey all of the 17 gardens were regularly visited by House Sparrows. In the period covered by the Interim Report two gardens in this area (Numbers 13 and 32) showed a positive trend and, as mentioned above, this was still the case up to the end of the survey. However, in general there has been a decrease in the number of House Sparrows visiting gardens in this part of the London Area and three gardens appeared to be on the verge of losing them when counts ceased in 2002 or 2003.

| Garden | Period | Comments |
|---------------|---------------|---|
| 47 | 1995 | Monthly maxima ranged from 4 to 12. |
| 56 | 1995 | Maximum monthly counts ranged from 28 to 74 (December). No further records were received. |
| 60 | 1995 | Monthly maxima ranged from 4 to 11. |
| 50 | 1995–1996 | Monthly maxima ranged from 3 to 14. |
| 57 | 1995–1996 | Monthly maxima ranged from 6 to 22. |
| 46 | 1995–1996 | Monthly maxima ranged from 3 to 14. |
| 9 | 1995–1999 | Monthly maxima of 5 to 12 in first 12 months; 0 to 5 in last 12 months. |
| 21 | 1995–2002 | Monthly maxima of 2 to 10 in first 24 months; 0 to 3 in final 12 months. |
| 6 | 1995–2003 | Numbers fluctuated between 1995 and December 1998, with monthly maxima of 6 to 16. Thereafter numbers declined and from January 2000 monthly maxima ranged from 2 to 7. |

- 10 1995–2003 Monthly maxima fluctuated between 1995 and spring 2002, averaging 6 to 11 and with 20 or more sparrows (maximum 28 in August 1998) being recorded occasionally. In the last 12 months maxima ranged from 1 to 8.
- 11 1995–2003 Monthly maxima of 3 to 13 in first 24 months; 0 to 10 in final 24 months.
- 12 1995–2003 Numbers fluctuated between 1995 and spring 1999 with monthly maxima in excess of 20 (36 in November 1995) quite frequent. Thereafter a decline set in and from January 2001 to the end of the survey, monthly maxima ranged from 2 to 8.
- 13 1995–2003 Garden with a positive trend taking 1996 as base year. However, maximum counts of 32 and 29 in May and June 1995 were not repeated in later years. Numbers dipped in 1996–1999, when maximum counts averaged 7 or 8 and then rose again from 2000 to average 11 to 14.
- 19 1995–2003 Numbers fluctuated between 1995 and December 1998 with monthly maxima ranging from 3 to 20. From 1999 to the end of the survey, maximum monthly counts ranged from 0 to 12.
- 28 1995–2003 For the first five years of the survey, maximum monthly counts of 20 or more were frequent, with occasional counts of 30, 40 or 50 (August 1999). Counts in the spring of 2000 were low but numbers built up again with maxima of 12 to 28 from July to December. In 2001 the pattern was similar but with July to October maxima of 12 to 20. From November 2001 to the end of the survey, monthly maxima ranged from 2 to 16.
- 31 1995–2003 Monthly maxima were usually no more than 5 but, between 1995 and 1998, 10 to 12 were recorded occasionally.
- 32 1995–2003 Garden with a positive trend taking 1996 as base year. From 1995 to 1999, maximum monthly counts in excess of 20 were quite frequent and there was a count of 30 in August 1995. From 2000, maximum counts of 30 or more became more usual, with a maximum of 45 in three months.

South-east London (TQ37, TQ47 and TQ46)

This area is better represented now than it was in the Interim Report, with a total of ten gardens. Records were received from seven gardens in 1995. All were visited by House Sparrows, and counts of 20 or more were not unusual. By 2002/2003, only two of these gardens remained in the survey and, in both of these, sparrows were at best rare visitors. However, in one garden which joined the survey in 1999, numbers dropped in 2001 and 2002 but up to 35 were seen in late summer 2003.

| Garden | Period | Comments |
|---------------|---------------|---|
| 51 | 1995–1996 | Highest count of 32. |
| 49 | 1995–1997 | Maximum monthly counts fluctuated between 12 and 37. |
| 61 | 1995–1997 | Maximum monthly counts of 40 in August and September 1995. The highest count in 1996 was 30 in August. Numbers declined thereafter. |
| 1 | 1995–2000 | In 1995/96 the monthly maxima were frequently in excess of 30 but by the winter of 1999/2000 just 1 or 2 sparrows were seen very occasionally. |
| 3 | 1995–2000 | Maximum monthly counts usually in excess of 20 with maxima of 30 quite frequent between September 1996 and August 1999. A decline appeared to have set in from November 1999 but counts ended in July 2000. |
| 20 | 1995–2003 | Monthly maxima in excess of 20 quite frequent in 1995 to 1997. Since November 1999, House Sparrows have been rare visitors. |
| 25 | 1995–2003 | Monthly maxima of 20 or more on occasions in 1995 and 1996. After that there was a fairly steady decline and from May 2003 no sparrows were recorded. |
| 14 | 1996–2003 | A few sparrows (maximum 9) were recorded in most weeks from 1997 through to the end of the survey although they were not seen every day. |

- 35 1996–2003 More than 30 were seen regularly in 1999. Numbers fell thereafter so that in 2001 and 2002 the highest count was 16 but in June to September 2003, 20 to 35 were present on a number of occasions.
- 45 1996–1999 Maximum monthly counts ranged from 3 to 14.

South-west London/ Surrey (TQ17, TQ16 and TQ07)

Records came from just six gardens. House Sparrow numbers in two gardens were already very low in 1995/96 but flocks of 20 or more were being recorded in the others. Four gardens were still in the survey in 2003. Sparrows had completely disappeared from one. Numbers in the other three had declined, but with considerable fluctuations.

| Garden | Period | Comments |
|--------|-----------|--|
| 48 | 1995–1996 | Maximum monthly counts ranged from 16 to 39. |
| 58 | 1995–1996 | 2 or 3 House Sparrows seen very occasionally to June 1996. |
| 8 | 1995–2003 | Good numbers in 1995 with counts in excess of 50 in three months. Numbers <i>declined</i> but with considerable fluctuations, bottoming in 1999 when the highest count was 12. Maximum weekly counts of 25 to 35 were made during August and September 2003. |
| 22 | 1995–2003 | Up to 4 recorded very occasionally up to June 1997. None recorded thereafter. |
| 26 | 1995–2003 | Numbers fluctuated, peaking between July 1998 and February 1999 when monthly maxima ranged from 12 to 28 and bottoming in 1999/ 2000 (highest count 6). In July, August and September 2001, maxima of 14 to 16 were recorded. After this, numbers dropped again. |
| 15 | 1996–2003 | Good numbers in first two years with one count in excess of 50. Thereafter rather lower numbers, bottoming in the period December 2001 to April 2002 when the highest count was 6. |

Essex (TQ49 and TQ48)

The north-east part of the London Area was represented by just two gardens.

| Garden | Period | Comments |
|--------|-----------|---|
| 23 | 1995–2003 | Recorded regularly between 1995 and 1997, with a maximum of 22 in <i>August</i> 1995. Thereafter sightings became irregular and the last sparrows were seen in June 1999. |
| 41 | 2002–2003 | Recorded regularly with a maximum of 25. |

Hertfordshire/North-west London (TQ09 and TQ08)

This area was represented by just three gardens.

| Garden | Period | Comments |
|--------|-----------|---|
| 55 | 1995–1996 | Maximum monthly counts ranged from 2 to 17. Counts in excess of 20 had been frequent in the 1980s. |
| 4 | 1996–2003 | Counts peaked at 35 in August 1997 and in August and September 1998 when flocks of juveniles visited the garden. Numbers dropped sharply between 1999 and 2000, when neighbours' kittens <i>spent</i> much of their time in the garden, but increased again before declining in 2003. |
| 37 | 1996–2003 | Records from garden 37 were erratic but suggested a fairly stable population of some 20 to 25 birds. |

Juveniles

The Interim Report included an analysis of the data on juveniles for the 1996 to 2000 breeding seasons. It showed a disturbing decrease in the number of

juvenile House Sparrows recorded and in the percentage of juveniles to adults recorded in the preceding April. The figures for the 2000 breeding season were particularly bad. Table 2 (below) repeats the data from 1996 to 2000 and adds data for the following three summers. It should be noted that, in 2003, no reports were received from four of the gardens, so the number of juveniles should be taken as an absolute minimum. This does not affect the juvenile-to-adult ratio. It is encouraging to note that both the number of juveniles and the juvenile-to-adult ratio in 2001, 2002 and 2003 were higher than the very low levels in 2000, suggesting that there may have been a slight upturn in breeding success. However, they were still below the levels for 1996 to 1999.

Table 2. Total number of wing-shivering juveniles recorded each year, with the total of the highest count of adults recorded in the same garden each April

| Year | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Wing-shivering juveniles | 183 | 198 | 175 | 87 | 41 | 65 | 59 | 50 |
| Adults—April | 180 | 137 | 113 | 90 | 64 | 86 | 73 | 66 |
| % of juveniles to adults | 102 | 145 | 155 | 97 | 48 | 76 | 81 | 76 |

Nest sites

Information on nest sites will be considered with the habitat data.

Discussion

This paper covers the full duration of the House Sparrow monitoring survey and draws on counts from all the gardens from which records were received. It suggests that the decline in numbers continued after February 2001 (the end of the period covered by the Interim Report) and that there is an increasing number of gardens which in the past have attracted regular sparrow flocks but which are no longer visited by them. Other gardens are visited occasionally or only for a limited period each year. However, there are still pockets where House Sparrows appear to be holding on.

One point of particular interest and possible concern is the frequent occurrence at all times of year of just one, two or three House Sparrows rather than a flock. As recorders noted the maximum number seen together in any week, it seems likely that these birds were foraging alone or with just one or two others. Are these the remnant from a larger flock? Furthermore, the occasional appearance of one or two sparrows in a garden suggests that some of the population may be fairly mobile. On the other hand, a number of participants commented that they regularly saw a flock further up the road or at some other location near by, but that these birds never came to their garden. It certainly seems that flocks of sparrows are now more widely spaced than used to be the case.

These additional data do not throw any further light on the factors causing the decline of the House Sparrow in the London Area. I hope that the analysis of the Predator/Competitor Data and the Habitat Data may assist.

Acknowledgements

Firstly I must thank all those who took part in the survey and in particular those who stayed the course and provided seven or eight years' data. Without your

efforts and enthusiasm the survey would not have been possible. I must also thank Denis Summers-Smith for his continuing encouragement and many helpful discussions. I am very grateful to Mike Earp for producing the map at Figure 1 and to Mike Trier for general advice on the layout.

Finally I must thank Denis Summers-Smith and Geoff Webdale for comments on earlier drafts of this paper.

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Meadow Pipits at Walton Heath: a study of Separation Distance and Indicative Territory Size.

Alan Prowse

Introduction

The Meadow Pipit has a thinly scattered breeding distribution in the LNHS Recording Area (Hewlett 2002). In the *London Bird Report* for 2001 (the latest to be published at the time of writing) there are only two breeding colonies recorded in double figures for the LNHS Area; in the Surrey part of the Area, only three isolated pairs were recorded, apart from the colony at Walton Heath of 20 pairs. The species has ceased to breed on the nearby Headley Heath in the past two decades (*pers. obs.*). Formerly widespread in lowland farmland nationally, the Meadow Pipit is now increasingly an upland species, due to habitat loss, and suffered a decline of 25–50% nationally in the period 1972–98 (Shrubb 2003).

Walton Heath is southern lowland heathland—a rare habitat everywhere but especially when restored, actively maintained and inside the M25. For some years I have been submitting the count of pairs of Meadow Pipits at Walton Heath and decided to study their distribution in detail in 2004. The results, which merited further analysis, are presented in this paper.

The Heath

Walton Heath Golf Courses, which occupy approximately 83 hectares (205 acres), are on gently-sloping common land just inside the M25. This was lowland heath with wide vistas in the 1930s; but between the fairways, the effects of the war and myxomatosis allowed much silver birch *Betula pendula* to grow which progressed from scrub to woodland. The heath grasses on the fairways were being replaced in the 1980s with meadow grasses which were dying in the summer droughts. The great storm of 1987 destroyed some of the birch wood, since when the club has been restoring the heathland.

Woods and belts of trees between the fairways have been removed, the areas cleaned, humus removed, and heather cuttings spread to restore heathers in these areas. Surviving bands of heather have been enlarged by turf-stripping down to the heather seed-bank or by re-seeding. Brooms *Cytisus* and gorses *Ulex* are controlled. The 1930s vistas have been recreated, and several clumps of Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris* are prominent in the landscape with a few birch and other trees. The predominant heather is *Calluna vulgaris*, with *Erica cinerea* less than 1% and very occasional *E. tetralix* (Ken Page *pers.com.*). Both gorses *Ulex europaeus* and *U. minor* are present, and Ken Page (who has visited with me) has commented that Petty Whin *Genista anglica* is so abundant it probably exceeds that in the whole of the rest of Surrey.

Meadow Pipits, uncommon inside the M25, have about 20 pairs here; Stonechats have varied between one and four pairs in the past decade; Tree Pipits, present in the 1960s, came and went in the last decade.

Methods

The area was visited throughout 2004 in clement weather, usually several times a week, on a walk of about 3 kilometres (2 miles). Meadow Pipits returned in February and began to sing, then pair, shortly after. The song territories were plotted approximately, and all breeding behaviour noted. On golf courses, because of the numerous features, plotting can be done with a considerable degree of accuracy. Song flight also helped define the territory. When the young hatch, there is a marked change in the behaviour of the adults and different notes are used—particularly a specific alarm call. As a result, in each territory I had a considerable knowledge of what was happening throughout the breeding season. When unfledged young are being fed, the immediate area of the nest is easy to record.

This study differed fundamentally from most studies, which delineate the boundaries of territories. It was concerned with the identification of the central (nesting) area, which is the focal point of the territory and which I think of as the “core”. One further technique was helpful in identifying the core area: the oologist Simson (1966) described how Tree Pipit pairs feed quietly in the immediate vicinity of the eventual nest before nesting; he also suggested that this behaviour was used by Edgar Chance as a technique to find Meadow Pipit nests when farming them for his pioneering work on Cuckoos (Chance 1922). It was useful in the present study.

There were several torrential downpours in late April which washed out the nesting pairs. This was unfortunate for the Meadow Pipits; but re-laying produced a population whose pairs were largely synchronised in laying and hatching in the following weeks, which made recording easier and more accurate.

Results

Figure 1 is a map of the Meadow Pipit territories. The territory cores are shown as small, filled circles. The map shows two populations.

In the upper part of the map (above the broken line) is a population of five pairs. This is in an area which three years previously was a wood of 5 hectares (12 acres) with a little heather on the edge of the surrounding fairways. In the winter of 2001–2002 the wood was partially felled and the ground cleared of herbage and debris; the following winter the remainder was cleared, leaving a few standard trees. The ground was again cleared and heather clippings distributed all over. It was heathland in the process of being re-established but still a mixture of coarse grasses and clearer areas. Two Meadow Pipit territories are in small areas of heather earlier restored, but which include some of the cleared wood, while the others in this group are in the cleared ground. There is no pattern here: just early colonisation of substandard ground, with dead space between the territories. It will be interesting to follow this group in the next years as the restoration continues.

In the lower part of the map is a triangle of restored heather with golf fairways all round, between which is restored heather some 30 metres (100 feet) wide. The triangle is 4.2 hectares (10.4 acres) in area, with heather, bracken, grasses (both long and short), gorse and broom; it is the hotspot of the area. A pair of Northern Wheatears nested unsuccessfully here in 2000; a male

Common Rosefinch was seen in 1996; Whinchat, Redstart, Black Redstart and Greenland Wheatear, among others, pass through on migration. In this general area the group of pipits shows a remarkable uniformity in distribution of the territory cores, despite the structure of the area as strips of fairway with heather in between. There is equal spacing both in lines and equilateral triangles, i.e. in one and two dimensions. Patterns such as this cannot occur by chance—only by territorial competition. The area has to be a desirable habitat which has been divided by territorial assertion. Whether or not the individual territories are equal in size cannot be established, but the uniformity of the distribution of the cores indicates that there are separation distances which are approximately equal in two dimensions. In an area of such high competition, no dead space would exist between the territories.

Best Fit

Patterns such as this are capable of analysis. On a graph, biological data can often be clarified by a best-fit curve or line. On this map I have similarly looked for a best fit with the aid of circles. This is comparatively simple for the first time, in this computer age, with a competent mapping program. The best-fit circle is selected by using a size which just touches the others—in this instance 174 metres (570 feet) in diameter. Superimposed on the pattern of cores, the fit is remarkable and must have significance. There are three small indicated groups of Scots Pines in the area. One increases the distance between neighbouring pairs slightly, one decreases it and the third is neutral.

Touching circles leave small gaps between them, and the area of circle is not, therefore, the area occupied by the birds if there is no dead space—though this can be calculated from the diameter of the circle (*see below*). The diameter of the best-fit circle also measures the best-fit separation distance between the cores.

Indicative Territory Size (ITS)

From the best-fit separation distance it is possible to calculate a theoretical territory size for the pairs; that is, the area which could be allocated to each pair exclusively within this pattern, without dead space. This I have called the “Indicative Territory Size” (ITS). It is larger than best-fit circles and is best represented theoretically by a hexagon (*see Figure 2, below*). With a best-fit separation distance of 174 metres (571 feet), the ITS is 2.62 hectares (6.47 acres). The mathematical calculations are shown in the Appendix.

There are four territories, marked A on the map, which do not fit the pattern. Each is close to the limits of other pairs and is situated on the periphery of the group, without boundaries to further territories away from the central group. The territory cores are placed eccentrically in the territories. These four pairs behaved in almost identical fashion. The only explanation I can offer is as follows: It is well documented that peripheral birds in “colonial” species are inexperienced ones. Each is using suitable heather blocks between the fairways and could have used the best-fit separation distance and remained within the heather. But they chose to nest as near to the colony as possible while using the large space away from the group for feeding and singing. That explanation, however, is not really pertinent to the present account.

There are Meadow Pipits to be heard over the 83 hectares (205 acres) of these two golf courses, but more than two-thirds of the pairs are concentrated on a triangle of 4.2 hectares (10.4 acres) and the immediately surrounding area. Elsewhere there are no Meadow Pipits, or a few scattered pairs. The idea of a flourishing population has to be changed to that of a group vulnerable to changes in a very small area, which is shown clearly in this analysis. Changes are already happening: the triangle was used as a turf reserve for repairs to the course; it is now being restored to heather. In 2005, Skylark and Red-legged Partridge nested in this triangle for the first time, indicating the degree of change—which may prove to be beneficial. The concept of ITS provides measurements against which future changes on a vulnerable population can be measured, with an amount of fieldwork much less than most detailed studies. No present tools would do it well.

Discussion

Eliot Howard, in his major work on avian territory (Howard, 1920), recognised the importance of the central song-post in the territory and the defence of the borders, but also recorded that members of a pair travel outside their territory to feed. However, for some years afterwards, territory was thought to be exclusive to, and confining, the pair in the breeding season. Detailed studies on individual species, such as Armstrong (1955) on the Wren, defined territory borders closely, and the borders of territories have remained important in such studies. Such territories are irregular in size and shape, being conditioned by artefacts such as edges and paths, and have been of little use in the analysis of the bird's use of the habitat. Modern thought has recognised that territory is much more fluid than previously thought. Radio studies show that defended territories are larger than fieldwork suggests and may overlap; pairs have a home range that is

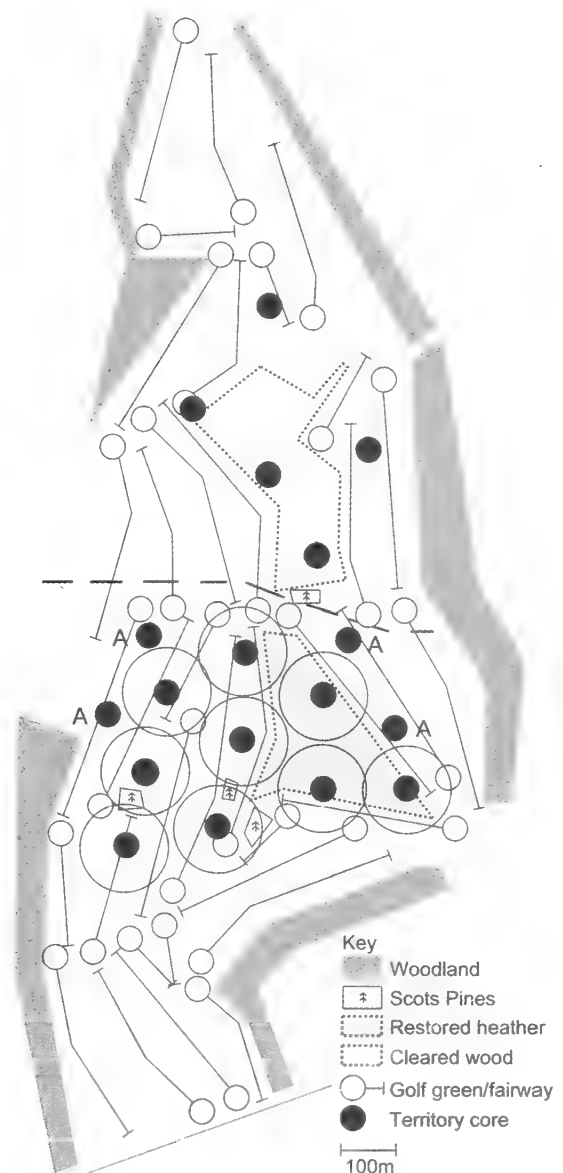


Figure 1. Map of Walton Heath Golf Courses.

Cores of Meadow Pipit territories are shown with best-fit circles for nine territories.

Diameter of best-fit circle, $D = 174$ metres

Indicative Territory Size, $ITS = 2.62$

very much larger than the territory (eg Bas *et al*, 2005). Hogstad (1999) showed that unobtrusive, non-breeding individuals can persist in breeding territories.

The previous concentration on territory borders has emphasised the difference in size and shape of adjacent territories. These borders are often dependent on topographical features such as paths and glades. Moreover, borders are most easily defined in field studies early in the breeding season, when disputes are most common. It is clear, in mid- and late-season studies, that the main song posts described by Howard, which are largely central in the territory, are the ones mostly used. In species that are common, these often appear evenly spaced in mid-season and subsequently (*pers. obs.*).

Many studies have found an equal spacing in linear and curvilinear habitats, such as canals and other waterways. Sometimes this equal spacing is caused by man-made artefacts. For example, in 1991, when I cruised along the Main-Danube Canal in Germany, there were singing Yellowhammers on every telegraph pole for several kilometres (*pers. obs.*). This was new habitat, and the regularity was man-made. In contrast, in the Algarve in May 2004, I visited an area I have been studying since 1989. Along a disused, overgrown canal at dawn, Cetti's Warblers were singing every 53 to 58 metres (175 to 190 feet). This spacing was not conditioned by artefacts and is a concentration which rivals that of the highest density recorded for the species (again in Portugal) of one pair per ca. 50 metres (165 feet) of hedge (Ferguson-Lees, 1964). As far as I am aware, the present study is the first to consider equal spacing of territory cores in two dimensions, though Seel and Walton (1979), studying Meadow Pipits in mountain farm grassland in North Wales, defined a central area of territory with two concentric circles round it (see Cramp, 1988), approximating to what is usually termed 'territory and home range'.

As part of the intensive studies of the birds in the LNHS survey of Bookham Common, I have been aware for some time of a deficiency in the tools available for studying and comparing smaller areas, particularly regarding the effects of management and other changes. Only the most detailed and intensive studies define the borders of birds' territories, and analysis is unproductive. A theoretical value of the territory size used by a species in a given area would be useful, though most detailed studies show a large variation in the territory size of adjacent pairs.

Densities are highly subjective. In this study, the density of pairs in the whole 83 hectares (205 acres) would be markedly different from the density in the lower half of the map. Published densities depend on the definition of the individual author. While they are useful in atlas work and other large projects, their application to small areas is limited. This lack of definition, involving small or large areas of study, and often of clustered records, is a serious drawback. Haila (1988) criticised the densities used in a study of a colony of Common Gulls, which could be calculated at between 0 and 1200 pairs per square kilometre (0 and 3100 per square mile) in the study area, both figures failing to take into account the foraging area of the birds. A study of literature on densities leads to more confusion than light, because a baseline is lacking. Where the two breeding atlases (Sharrock, 1976 and Gibbons *et al*, 1993) give figures, these are useful, though there is no consistent presentation between species; while BWP gives many examples with little editorial input. The CBC has given useful pointers on density but was structured as a constant effort census—to give a reproducible

index of population change from year to year rather than accurate population statistics. Its successor, the BBS, will be less useful in this context. Although I have used densities both in Prowse, 1998 and in the annual reports on Bookham Common in *The London Naturalist*, they are only useful if subject to all the above caveats.

I have, therefore, been developing the idea of the territory core at Bookham for some time. This present study, with its high concentration of pairs in a limited part of an isolated, specialised habitat, has allowed the concept of the Indicative Territory Size to be published. It is the simplest example I have encountered and is, therefore, suitable to introduce the idea. The results of this theory are clarifying aspects of territory and habitat use at Bookham Common and will be the subject of further publications.

Acknowledgements

I am extremely grateful to Dr. Rob Fuller for his generosity of time in discussing Indicative Territory Size, for his constructive comments on an account of ITS with many examples, and his advice on its development.

Both figures, and the mapping of the fieldwork, have used ADITMAP.

Appendix

The Concept of Indicative Territory Size (ITS)

ITS allocates an area of habitat to the individual pair on a theoretical basis: it is the area which each pair would occupy if the survey area was divided between the pairs equally. It depends on the survey area having a sufficient population of a species for the individuals to be in active competition, with little or no dead space between them. Areas are identified within that habitat where the regularity of the territory cores is recognisable in one or two dimensions by lines or equilateral triangles, where a best-fit separation distance can be established. (There may, of course, be differing scenarios in different parts of a diverse study area). Some species, of course, do not fit the territorial requirements. For example, fringilliform finches do, but cardueline finches do not. However, most common species are territorially based in a way that is compatible with analysis. Using this tool, it is possible to examine the relationship between the species and its local environment from year to year, and in differing circumstances of conservation and management.

Theory

In an area of high concentration of territories, the habitat is obviously prime, and the birds who have established territory there are, equally obviously, highly successful males. Where there is equal spacing between the territory cores, there must be an inherent quality to this spacing in terms of the species and the habitat at that time. The spacing is obvious when it is linear, but such an inherent quality would also be visible in two dimensions. It could be that the bird would be unable to defend the same distance in two dimensions. On the other hand, a bird that defends a certain spacing from the north and south is unlikely to tolerate less spacing from the east and west. In this study, and others at Bookham, the one- and two-dimensional distances are the same.

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Book Review:

The Birds of Essex by Simon Wood. Christopher Helm, 2007

Essex has been well served by reviews of its avifauna and Simon Wood's book 'The Birds of Essex' (2007) is the latest and comprehensive of these. The sign of a good county avifauna review is one that tells you facts you wanted to know (e.g. how many records of a particular species have occurred and when they were); however, an exceptional county review like this is one that tells you things you didn't know you wanted to know, e.g. that White-tailed Eagle and Raven were the first birds to be documented in Essex in about AD 991, thereby starting off the Essex list which had reached 384 species by the end of this book's coverage in 2004.

And everyone of those species has a full account of its presence in Essex, listing occurrences for rarities as well as historical and current status for more regular species. These are well supplemented with tables of WeBS counts, summaries from breeding atlases and graphs, all of which give a very full picture of each species' status in the county although the the tables and graphs are really too small to interpret.

The working group who put together this book clearly spent a lot of time researching, as new records have come to light, including one of an American Bittern which has also become the second British record.

Additional chapters include a brief introduction to the county covering geology, weather and habitats etc; fossil records (although these are not included on the county list); the Wetland Bird Survey; a brief history of Essex ornithology and ornithological highlights (e.g. detailing when every species was first recorded in the county) as well as a very detailed bibliography and site gazetteer. A short summary of 2005 records is also included. I would however liked to have seen a chapter on the birding personalities of Essex, particularly those no longer with us who contributed so much to the birding knowledge in this county.

The book includes 24 colour plates showing birds, places and habitats although only one of these plates illustrates photographs of significant records and all those images are unfortunately rather small. There are also a few black and white illustrations scattered throughout the species accounts.

With Metropolitan Essex overlapping with the LNHS recording area there is a great deal of interest here to all London birders and while this weighty book may contribute to the bowing of many bookshelves, it will contribute far more in the way of knowledge about the birds in our neighbouring county and it is surely now about time a similar volume was produced for London.

Andrew Self

Checklist of Birds of the London Area

The total number of species recorded in an apparently wild state in the London Area in historic times is now 358 with the addition of Hume's Warbler in 2004, of which 345 have been recorded since 1900.

The 13 species marked with a * in the checklist were recorded in the London Area at least once prior to 1900 but have not been recorded in an apparently wild state since. The first number for each species is its EURING species number, as now used in the LBR. It should be noted that although the LBR lists Caspian Gull separately, it has not been 'split' by the BOU and so is not counted in this checklist

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| 0152 | Mute Swan | <i>Cygnus olor</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0153 | Bewick's Swan | <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0154 | Whooper Swan | <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0157 | Bean Goose | <i>Anser fabalis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0158 | Pink-footed Goose | <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0159 | White-fronted Goose | <i>Anser albifrons</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0161 | Greylag Goose | <i>Anser anser</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0166 | Canada Goose | <i>Branta canadensis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0167 | Barnacle Goose | <i>Branta leucopsis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0168 | Brent Goose | <i>Branta bernicla</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0169 | Red-breasted Goose* | <i>Branta ruficollis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0170 | Egyptian Goose | <i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0173 | Shelduck | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0178 | Mandarin Duck | <i>Aix galericulata</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0179 | Eurasian Wigeon | <i>Anas penelope</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0180 | American Wigeon | <i>Anas americana</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0182 | Gadwall | <i>Anas strepera</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0184 | Common Teal | <i>Anas crecca</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0184.1 | Green-winged Teal | <i>Anas carolinensis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0186 | Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0189 | Pintail | <i>Anas acuta</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0191 | Garganey | <i>Anas querquedula</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0192 | Blue-winged Teal | <i>Anas discors</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0194 | Shoveler | <i>Anas clypeata</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0196 | Red-crested Pochard | <i>Netta rufina</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0198 | Pochard | <i>Aythya ferina</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0200 | Ring-necked Duck | <i>Aythya collaris</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0202 | Ferruginous Duck | <i>Aythya nyroca</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0203 | Tufted Duck | <i>Aythya fuligula</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0204 | Scaup | <i>Aythya marila</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0205 | Lesser Scaup | <i>Aythya affinis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0206 | Common Eider | <i>Somateria mollissima</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0207 | King Eider | <i>Somateria spectabilis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0212 | Long-tailed Duck | <i>Clangula hyemalis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0213 | Common Scoter | <i>Melanitta nigra</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0215 | Velvet Scoter | <i>Melanitta fusca</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0218 | Common Goldeneye | <i>Bucephala clangula</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 0220 | Smew | <i>Mergellus albellus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0221 | Red-breasted Merganser | <i>Mergus serrator</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0223 | Goosander | <i>Mergus merganser</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0225 | Ruddy Duck | <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0358 | Red-legged Partridge | <i>Alectoris rufa</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0367 | Grey Partridge | <i>Perdix perdix</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0370 | Quail | <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0394 | Pheasant | <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0002 | Red-throated Diver | <i>Gavia stellata</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0003 | Black-throated Diver | <i>Gavia arctica</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0004 | Great Northern Diver | <i>Gavia immer</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0006 | Pied-billed Grebe | <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0007 | Little Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0009 | Great Crested Grebe | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0010 | Red-necked Grebe | <i>Podiceps grisegena</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0011 | Slavonian Grebe | <i>Podiceps auritus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0012 | Black-necked Grebe | <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0020 | Fulmar | <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0046 | Manx Shearwater | <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0046 | Balearic Shearwater | <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0048 | Macronesian Shearwater | <i>Puffinus baroli</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0052 | European Storm-petrel | <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0055 | Leach's Storm-petrel | <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0071 | Gannet | <i>Morus bassanus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0072 | Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0080 | Shag | <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0095 | Bittern | <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0098 | Little Bittern | <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0104 | Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0108 | Squacco Heron | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0111 | Cattle Egret | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0119 | Little Egret | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0121 | Great White Egret | <i>Ardea alba</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0122 | Grey Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0124 | Purple Heron | <i>Ardea purpurea</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0131 | Black Stork | <i>Ciconia nigra</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0134 | White Stork | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0136 | Glossy Ibis | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0144 | Spoonbill | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0231 | Honey-buzzard | <i>Pernis apivorus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0238 | Black Kite | <i>Milvus migrans</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0239 | Red Kite | <i>Milvus milvus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0243 | White-tailed Eagle | <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0260 | Marsh Harrier | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0261 | Hen Harrier | <i>Circus cyaneus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0263 | Montagu's Harrier | <i>Circus pygargus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0267 | Goshawk | <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0269 | Sparrowhawk | <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0287 | Common Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 0290 | Rough-legged Buzzard | <i>Buteo lagopus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0296 | Golden Eagle* | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0301 | Osprey | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0303 | Lesser Kestrel | <i>Falco naumanni</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0304 | Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0307 | Red-footed Falcon | <i>Falco vespertinus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0309 | Merlin | <i>Falco columbarius</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0310 | Hobby | <i>Falco subbuteo</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0318 | Gyr Falcon | <i>Falco rusticolus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0320 | Peregrine Falcon | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0407 | Water Rail | <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0408 | Spotted Crake | <i>Porzana porzana</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0410 | Little Crake* | <i>Porzana parva</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0410 | Baillon's Crake* | <i>Porzana pusilla</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0421 | Corncrake | <i>Crex crex</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0424 | Moorhen | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0429 | Coot | <i>Fulica atra</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0433 | Common Crane | <i>Grus grus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0446 | Great Bustard* | <i>Otis tarda</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0450 | Oystercatcher | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0455 | Black-winged Stilt | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0456 | Avocet | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0459 | Stone-curlew | <i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0464 | Cream-coloured Courser* | <i>Cursorius cursor</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0465 | Collared Pratincole | <i>Glareola pratincola</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0469 | Little Ringed Plover | <i>Charadrius dubius</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0470 | Ringed Plover | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0474 | Killdeer | <i>Charadrius vociferus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0477 | Kentish Plover | <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0482 | Dotterel | <i>Charadrius morinellus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0483 | American Golden Plover | <i>Pluvialis dominica</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0484 | Pacific Golden Plover* | <i>Pluvialis fulva</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0485 | European Golden Plover | <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0486 | Grey Plover | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0491 | Sociable Lapwing | <i>Vanellus gregarius</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0493 | Northern Lapwing | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0496 | Knot | <i>Calidris canutus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0497 | Sanderling | <i>Calidris alba</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0499 | Western Sandpiper | <i>Calidris mauri</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0501 | Little Stint | <i>Calidris minuta</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0502 | Temminck's Stint | <i>Calidris temminckii</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0505 | White-rumped Sandpiper | <i>Calidris fuscicollis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0506 | Baird's Sandpiper | <i>Calidris bairdii</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0507 | Pectoral Sandpiper | <i>Calidris melanotos</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0508 | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | <i>Calidris acuminata</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0509 | Curlew Sandpiper | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0510 | Purple Sandpiper | <i>Calidris maritima</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0512 | Dunlin | <i>Calidris alpina</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0514 | Broad-billed Sandpiper | <i>Limicola falcinellus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 0516 | Buff-breasted Sandpiper | <i>Tryngites subruficollis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0517 | Ruff | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0518 | Jack Snipe | <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0519 | Common Snipe | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0520 | Great Snipe | <i>Gallinago media</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0527 | Long-billed Dowitcher | <i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0529 | Woodcock | <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0532 | Black-tailed Godwit | <i>Limosa limosa</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0534 | Bar-tailed Godwit | <i>Limosa lapponica</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0538 | Whimbrel | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0541 | Curlew | <i>Numenius arquata</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0545 | Spotted Redshank | <i>Tringa erythropus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0546 | Redshank | <i>Tringa totanus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0547 | Marsh Sandpiper | <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0548 | Greenshank | <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0551 | Lesser Yellowlegs | <i>Tringa flavipes</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0552 | Solitary Sandpiper | <i>Tringa solitaria</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0553 | Green Sandpiper | <i>Tringa ochropus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0554 | Wood Sandpiper | <i>Tringa glareola</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0556 | Common Sandpiper | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0557 | Spotted Sandpiper | <i>Actitis macularius</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0561 | Turnstone | <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0563 | Wilson's Phalarope | <i>Phalaropus tricolor</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0564 | Red-necked Phalarope | <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0565 | Grey Phalarope | <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0566 | Pomarine Skua | <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0567 | Arctic Skua | <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0568 | Long-tailed Skua | <i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0569 | Great Skua | <i>Stercorarius skua</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0575 | Mediterranean Gull | <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0577 | Franklin's Gull | <i>Larus pipixcan</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0578 | Little Gull | <i>Larus minutus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0579 | Sabine's Gull | <i>Larus sabini</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0581 | Bonaparte's Gull | <i>Larus philadelphia</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0582 | Black-headed Gull | <i>Larus ridibundus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0589 | Ring-billed Gull | <i>Larus delawarensis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0590 | Common Gull | <i>Larus canus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0591 | Lesser Black-backed Gull | <i>Larus fuscus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0591.2 | Yellow-legged Gull | <i>Larus michahellis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0592 | Herring Gull | <i>Larus argentatus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0598 | Iceland Gull | <i>Larus glaucoides</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0599 | Glaucous Gull | <i>Larus hyperboreus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0600 | Great Black-backed Gull | <i>Larus marinus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0602 | Kittiwake | <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0623 | Sooty Tern | <i>Onychoprion fuscata</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0622 | Bridled Tern | <i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0624 | Little Tern | <i>Sternula albifrons</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0605 | Gull-billed Tern | <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0606 | Caspian Tern | <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 0626 | Whiskered Tern | <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0627 | Black Tern | <i>Chlidonias niger</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0628 | White-winged Black Tern | <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0611 | Sandwich Tern | <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0615 | Common Tern | <i>Sterna hirundo</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0614 | Roseate Tern | <i>Sterna dougallii</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0616 | Arctic Tern | <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0634 | Common Guillemot | <i>Uria aalge</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0636 | Razorbill | <i>Alca torda</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0647 | Little Auk | <i>Alle alle</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0654 | Puffin | <i>Fratercula arctica</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0663 | Pallas's Sandgrouse | <i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0665 | Rock Dove | <i>Columba livia</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0668 | Stock Dove | <i>Columba oenas</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0670 | Woodpigeon | <i>Columba palumbus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0684 | Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0687 | Turtle Dove | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0712 | Ring-necked Parakeet | <i>Psittacula krameri</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0724 | Cuckoo | <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0728 | Yellow-billed Cuckoo | <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0735 | Barn Owl | <i>Tyto alba</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0739 | Scops Owl* | <i>Otus scops</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0749 | Snowy Owl | <i>Bubo scandiaca</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0757 | Little Owl | <i>Athene noctua</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0761 | Tawny Owl | <i>Strix aluco</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0767 | Long-eared Owl | <i>Asio otus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0768 | Short-eared Owl | <i>Asio flammeus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0770 | Tengmalm's Owl* | <i>Aegolius funereus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0778 | European Nightjar | <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0786 | Common Nighthawk | <i>Chordeiles minor</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0795 | Common Swift | <i>Apus apus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0798 | Alpine Swift | <i>Apus melba</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0831 | Kingfisher | <i>Alcedo atthis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0840 | European Bee-eater | <i>Merops apiaster</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0841 | European Roller | <i>Coracias garrulus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0846 | Hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0848 | Wryneck | <i>Jynx torquilla</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0856 | Green Woodpecker | <i>Picus viridis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0876 | Great Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos major</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0887 | Lesser Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos minor</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0968 | Short-toed Lark | <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0972 | Crested Lark | <i>Galerida cristata</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0974 | Woodlark | <i>Lullula arborea</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0976 | Skylark | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0978 | Shore Lark | <i>Eremophila alpestris</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0981 | Sand Martin | <i>Riparia riparia</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0992 | Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1001 | House Martin | <i>Delichon urbicum</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 0995 | Red-rumped Swallow | <i>Cecropis daurica</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 1002 | Richard's Pipit | <i>Anthus richardi</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1005 | Tawny Pipit | <i>Anthus campestris</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1008 | Olive-backed Pipit | <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1009 | Tree Pipit | <i>Anthus trivialis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1011 | Meadow Pipit | <i>Anthus pratensis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1012 | Red-throated Pipit | <i>Anthus cervinus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1014 | Rock Pipit | <i>Anthus petrosus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1015 | Water Pipit | <i>Anthus spinoletta</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1017 | Yellow Wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1018 | Citrine Wagtail | <i>Motacilla citreola</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1019 | Grey Wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1020 | Pied Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1048 | Waxwing | <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1050 | Dipper | <i>Cinclus cinclus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1066 | Wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1084 | Dunnock | <i>Prunella modularis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1094 | Alpine Accentor* | <i>Prunella collaris</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1099 | Robin | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1104 | Nightingale | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1106 | Bluethroat | <i>Luscinia svecica</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1121 | Black Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1122 | Common Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1137 | Whinchat | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1139 | European Stonechat | <i>Saxicola torquata</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1146 | Northern Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1149 | Desert Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe deserti</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1176 | Hermit Thrush | <i>Catharus guttatus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1186 | Ring Ouzel | <i>Turdus torquatus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1187 | Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1197 | Dusky Thrush | <i>Turdus naumanni</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1198 | Fieldfare | <i>Turdus pilaris</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1200 | Song Thrush | <i>Turdus philomelos</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1201 | Redwing | <i>Turdus iliacus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1202 | Mistle Thrush | <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1220 | Cetti's Warbler | <i>Cettia cetti</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1236 | Grasshopper Warbler | <i>Locustella naevia</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1238 | Savi's Warbler | <i>Locustella luscinioides</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1242 | Aquatic Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1243 | Sedge Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1247 | Paddyfield Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1248 | Blyth's Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1250 | Marsh Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1251 | Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1259 | Icterine Warbler | <i>Hippolais icterina</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1260 | Melodious Warbler | <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1277 | Blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1276 | Garden Warbler | <i>Sylvia borin</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1273 | Barred Warbler | <i>Sylvia nisoria</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1274 | Lesser Whitethroat | <i>Sylvia curruca</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1275 | Common Whitethroat | <i>Sylvia communis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1262 | Dartford Warbler | <i>Sylvia undata</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1265 | Subalpine Warbler | <i>Sylvia cantillans</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1267 | Sardinian Warbler | <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1298 | Pallas's Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1300 | Yellow-browed Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1301.1 | Hume's Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus humei</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1301 | Radde's Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1308 | Wood Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1311 | Common Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1311.1 | Iberian Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1312 | Willow Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1314 | Goldcrest | <i>Regulus regulus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1315 | Firecrest | <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1335 | Spotted Flycatcher | <i>Muscicapa striata</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1343 | Red-breasted Flycatcher | <i>Ficedula parva</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1349 | Pied Flycatcher | <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1364 | Bearded Tit | <i>Panurus biarmicus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1437 | Long-tailed Tit | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1462 | Blue Tit | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1464 | Great Tit | <i>Parus major</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1454 | Crested Tit | <i>Lophophanes cristatus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1461 | Coal Tit | <i>Periparus ater</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1442 | Willow Tit | <i>Poecile montanus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1440 | Marsh Tit | <i>Poecile palustris</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1479 | Nuthatch | <i>Sitta europaea</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1486 | Treecreeper | <i>Certhia familiaris</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1487 | Short-toed Treecreeper | <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1490 | Penduline Tit | <i>Remiz pendulinus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1508 | Golden Oriole | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1514 | Isabelline Shrike | <i>Lanius isabellinus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1515 | Red-backed Shrike | <i>Lanius collurio</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1519 | Lesser Grey Shrike | <i>Lanius minor</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1520 | Great Grey Shrike | <i>Lanius excubitor</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1523 | Woodchat Shrike | <i>Lanius senator</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1539 | Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1549 | Magpie | <i>Pica pica</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1557 | Nutcracker | <i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1560 | Jackdaw | <i>Corvus monedula</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1563 | Rook | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1567 | Carrion Crow | <i>Corvus corone</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1567.1 | Hooded Crow | <i>Corvus cornix</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1572 | Raven | <i>Corvus corax</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1582 | Starling | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1584 | Rose-coloured Starling | <i>Sturnus roseus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1591 | House Sparrow | <i>Passer domesticus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1598 | Tree Sparrow | <i>Passer montanus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1636 | Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1638 | Brambling | <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1640 | Serin | <i>Serinus serinus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1649 | Greenfinch | <i>Carduelis chloris</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1653 | Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1654 | Siskin | <i>Carduelis spinus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1660 | Linnet | <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1662 | Twite | <i>Carduelis flavirostris</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1663 | Lesser Redpoll | <i>Carduelis cabaret</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1663.1 | Mealy Redpoll | <i>Carduelis flammea</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1664 | Arctic Redpoll | <i>Carduelis hornemanni</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1665 | Two-barred Crossbill* | <i>Loxia leucoptera</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1666 | Common Crossbill | <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1668 | Parrot Crossbill* | <i>Loxia pytyopsittacus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1679 | Common Rosefinch | <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1699 | Pine Grosbeak* | <i>Pinicola enucleator</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1710 | Bullfinch | <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1717 | Hawfinch | <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1847 | Lapland Bunting | <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1850 | Snow Bunting | <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1856 | Pine Bunting | <i>Emberiza leucocephalos</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1857 | Yellowhammer | <i>Emberiza citrinella</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1858 | Cirl Bunting | <i>Emberiza cirlus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1866 | Ortolan Bunting | <i>Emberiza hortulana</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1873 | Rustic Bunting | <i>Emberiza rustica</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1874 | Little Bunting | <i>Emberiza pusilla</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1877 | Reed Bunting | <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1881 | Black-headed Bunting | <i>Emberiza melanocephala</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1882 | Corn Bunting | <i>Emberiza calandra</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Guide for Contributors of Ornithological Records

All records of ornithological interest, from LNHS members and non-members alike, are welcomed by the Society's Ornithological Records Committee. However, with an ever-growing number of active birdwatchers in the London Area it seems sensible to issue a guide to our requirements.

This guide is not intended to be comprehensive and contributors are asked to use their own guidance and common sense but it does serve as a reference point for the type of records required. For example, with many common breeding species comparative yearly breeding counts are especially welcomed. The Records Committee reserves the right to request full details for any record, e.g. out of season migrants. This guide does not apply to Inner London where all records are required, but similar criteria regarding descriptions should be followed.

KEY:

- A = all records.
- D = full description required (form available from recorders).
- N = brief notes required (how identified, view, distance etc., form available from recorders)
- MM = dated monthly maxima for frequently visited sites and all records from elsewhere subject to >n.
- >n = minimum count required, subject to other categories.
- B = all breeding records subject to >n.
- T = all territory counts as well as definite breeding records.
- S = all records between mid-May and mid-July.
- F&L = first and last dates.
- P = passage flocks and movements.
- W = all wintering records

Mute Swan (MM, >30, B)

Bewick's/Whooper Swans (A, N)

Bean/Pink-footed Goose (A, D)

White-fronted Goose (A)

Greylag Goose (MM, B)

Barnacle/Brent/Egyptian Goose (A)

Canada Goose (MM>20, >200, B)

Shelduck (MM, S)

Mandarin/Wigeon (A)

American Wigeon (A, D)

Gadwall/Teal (MM>10, S)

Green-winged Teal (A, D)

Mallard (MM>10, >200, B)

Pintail/Garganey (A)

Shoveler (MM>10, S)

Red-crested Pochard (A)

Pochard (MM>10, S)

Ring-necked/Ferruginous Duck (A, D)

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Tufted Duck (MM>50, B) | Spotted Crane/Corncrake (A, D) |
| Scaup (A) | Moorhen/Coot (MM>20, B>5) |
| Eider/Long-tailed Duck (A, N) | Crane (A, D) |
| Common Scoter (A) | Oystercatcher/Avocet (A) |
| Velvet Scoter (A, D) | Stone-curlew (A, D) |
| Goldeneye/Smew (A) | Little Ringed Plover/Ringed Plover (A) |
| Red-b. Merganser/Goosander (A) | Kentish Plover/Dotterel (A, D) |
| Ruddy Duck (MM, B) | American Golden Plover (A, D) |
| All partridges (A) | Golden/Grey Plover (A) |
| Quail (A, D) | Lapwing (P, >10, B) |
| Pheasant (>20, B) | Knot/Sanderling/Little Stint (A) |
| All divers (A, N) | Temminck's Stint (A, D) |
| Little/Great Crested Grebe (MM, B) | White-rumped Sandpiper (A, D) |
| Other grebes (A) | Curlew Sandpiper (A) |
| All shearwaters/Fulmar (A, D) | Pectoral/Purple Sandpiper (A, D) |
| All petrels (A, D) | Dunlin (MM>5, S) |
| Gannet (A, N) | Buff-breasted Sandpiper (A, D) |
| Cormorant (MM, B) | Ruff/Woodcock/Jack Snipe (A) |
| Shag (A) | Snipe (MM>3, S) |
| Bittern (A) | All godwits/Whimbrel/Curlew(A) |
| Little Egret (A) | Spotted Redshank (A) |
| Great White Egret (A, D) | Redshank (MM>5, S) |
| Grey Heron (MM>15, B) | Greenshank (A) |
| Purple/Night Heron (A, D) | Green/Wood/Common Sandpiper (A) |
| White Stork/Spoonbill (A, D) | Turnstone (A) |
| Black Kite (A, D) | All phalaropes (A, D) |
| Red Kite (A) | All skuas (A, D) |
| Marsh Harrier (A) | Mediterranean/Little Gull (A) |
| Hen/Montagu's Harrier (A, D) | Sabine's Gull (A, D) |
| Goshawk (A, D) | Black-headed Gull (MM>50) |
| Sparrowhawk (A) | Ring-billed Gull (A, D) |
| Common Buzzard (A) | Common Gull (MM, >10) |
| Honey/Rough-legged Buzzard (A, D) | LBB/Herring Gull/ (MM, >10, B) |
| Osprey (A) | Yellow-legged/Caspian Gull (A) |
| Kestrel (>5, B) | Iceland/Glaucous Gull (A,D) |
| Red-footed Falcon (A, D) | Great Black-backed Gull (MM, >10) |
| Merlin (A, N) | Kittiwake (A) |
| Hobby/Peregrine (A) | Little/Black Tern (A) |
| Water Rail (A) | White-winged Black Tern (A, D) |

- Sandwich/Arctic Tern (A)
 Common Tern (>5, B, F&L)
 Roseate Tern (A, D)
 All auks (A, D)
 Feral Rock Dove (>100)
 Stock Dove (>10, B)
 Wood Pigeon (>100, B, P)
 Collared Dove (>20, B)
 Turtle Dove (A)
 Ring-necked Parakeet (>10, B)
 Cuckoo (S, P, F&L)
 All owls (A)
 Nightjar (A, N)
 Swift (>100, B, P, F&L)
 Alpine Swift (A, D)
 Kingfisher (T)
 Bee-eater/Hoopoe/Wryneck (A, D)
 All woodpeckers (T)
 Short-toed Lark/Shore Lark (A, D)
 Wood Lark (A, D away from breeding sites)
 Sky Lark (>5, B, P)
 Sand Martin (>20, B, F&L, P)
 Swallow/House Martin (>50, B, F&L P)
 Red-rumped Swallow (A, D)
 Tawny/Richard's Pipits (A, D)
 Tree Pipit (A)
 Meadow Pipit (>25, B, P)
 Red-throated Pipit (A, D)
 Rock/Water Pipit (A)
 Yellow Wagtail (A)
 Grey Wagtail (MM, S)
 Pied Wagtail (>5, B)
 Waxwing (A)
 Dipper (A, D)
 Wren/Dunnock/Robin (>10, T)
 Nightingale (A)
 Bluethroat (A, D)
 Black Redstart/Redstart/Whinchat (A)
- Stonechat/Wheatear/Ring Ouzel (A)
 Blackbird (>20, P, T)
 Fieldfare/Redwing (>20, F&L, P)
 Song/Mistle Thrush (>5, P, T)
 Cetti's Warbler (A, D unless singing)
 Aquatic/Marsh Warbler (A, D)
 Grasshopper Warbler (A)
 Sedge/Reed Warbler (>5, F&L, T)
 Hippolais warblers (A, D)
 Barred/Subalpine Warbler (A, D)
 Dartford Warbler (A)
 Lesser Whitethroat (>5, F&L, T)
 Common Whitethroat (>5, F&L, T)
 Garden Warbler (>5, F&L, T)
 Blackcap (>10, F&L, T, W)
 Pallas's/Yellow-browed Warbler (A, D)
 Radde's Warbler (A, D)
 Wood Warbler (A)
 Chiffchaff (>10, F&L, T, W)
 Willow Warbler (>10, F&L, T)
 Goldcrest (>5, T)
 Firecrest (A)
 Spotted/Pied Flycatcher (A)
 Red-breasted Flycatcher (A, D)
 Bearded Tit (A)
 Long-tailed Tit (>20, T)
 Marsh/Willow Tit (A)
 Coal/Blue/Great Tit (>20, T)
 Nuthatch/Treecreeper (T)
 Golden Oriole (A, D)
 All shrikes (A, D)
 Jay/Magpie (>15, B>5, P)
 Jackdaw/Rook (>20, B)
 Carrion Crow (>50, B>5)
 Hooded Crow/Raven (A, N)
 Starling (>100, B>10)
 Rose-coloured Starling (A, D)
 House Sparrow (>20, B>5)
 Tree Sparrow (A)

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chaffinch (>50, B, P) | Common Rosefinch (A, D) |
| Brambling (A) | Bullfinch (>5, B) |
| Serín (A, D) | Hawfinch (A) |
| Greenfinch/Goldfinch (>30, B, P) | Lapland Bunting (A, D) |
| Siskin (>5, S) | Snow Bunting (A, N) |
| Linnet (>10, B, P) | Yellowhammer (A) |
| Twite (A, D) | Ortolan/Cirl Bunting (A, D) |
| Lesser Redpoll (>5, S) | Reed Bunting (>10, T, P) |
| Mealy Redpoll (A, N) | Little Bunting (A, D) |
| Arctic Redpoll (A, D) | Corn Bunting (A) |
| Crossbill (A) | |

In addition to the above, full descriptions are required for all species assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee. Description forms are available from the Editor or recorders on request. All records of escapes are also welcomed by the Society. All records of hybrids and birds showing plumage aberrance are also required.

Sub-species

All records of sub-species/races are required. In some cases notes are required, eg White Wagtail in autumn and races of Yellow Wagtail other than *M.f. flavissima*. In many other instances notes may not be required but in difficult cases please provide your reasons for assigning the record to a particular sub-species/race. Such cases could be: Greenland Wheatear; Races of Chiffchaff; Northern Willow Warbler; Northern Long-tailed Tit; and Northern Bullfinch

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all contributors for their records - without your enthusiastic support we could not produce the annual London Bird Report.

Andrew Self, on behalf of the Records Committee, October 2006

Notes for Contributors

The Editor welcomes papers, short notes, photographs and drawings relating to the ornithology of the London Area and will be pleased to advise authors on the acceptability of material at draft stage if desired. Papers should be submitted to the Papers Editor.

Papers Texts should be emailed to the Papers Editor in a Microsoft Word or Works word processor file.

Style English names of birds require initial capitals except after a hyphen, but group names, animals and flowers do not. Scientific names should be in italics, but only the first (generic) name should have an initial capital. Their use in the text is optional. Dates should take the form Jan 1st 2004; numbers under 11 should be spelt out in text; fractions should be decimalised. Full points should be omitted from well known initials, such as BTO, LNHS and RSPB, and also from 'eg', 'ie' and 'et al'. Quotation marks, if used, should be double. Any references to publications should be given in full, with the name spelt out and in italics.

References should adopt the following style:

HARRISON, J., & GRANT, P.J., 1976. *The Thames Transformed*. London.

MOON, A.V., 1988. The influx of Sabine's Gulls and other Seabirds in October 1987. *Lond. Bird Rep.* 52: 121-132.

Illustrations Figures and graphs in papers are welcomed. Artwork should not be prepared until size of reproduction is known and the Papers Editor has been consulted.

Photographs Prints must allow sufficient background for masking and block making. If sent by post they must be packed in a board-backed envelope or otherwise protected to prevent damage. Digital photos can be submitted on a CD.

Proofs Authors of papers and short notes will be sent proofs, if requested, but only printers' mistakes may be changed at this stage.

Reprints Up to 2 free reprints of papers (but not short notes or reviews) are provided if ordered by authors in advance. Larger quantities are charged at cost.

All papers for publication should be submitted to the Papers Editor, Mike Trier, 38 Maury Road, Stoke Newington, London N16 7BP, email: miketrier@waitrose.com

Photographs should be submitted to the Photographic Editor, Dominic Mitchell, email: dominic.mitchell@birdwatch.co.uk



Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* and Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* at Cornmill Meadows, winter 2004/05. Sympathetic wetland management has bolstered waterbird numbers at this Lee Valley site. (Dominic Mitchell)

In association with
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